CENTENNIAL ISSUE 1967

Part 2

KLAMATH ECHOES

Klamath County Historical Society

NUMBER 5

Klamath Falls, some time during the 1908 period. Looking east along Main Street from the west side of Link River. Note the "Linkville Trolley" slowly traveling down Main toward the river. —Photo Courtesy Klamath County Museum.

Klamath Falls

(The following poem, written by an unidentified person, was printed in the *Klamath Republican* of October 15, 1908.)

A little city rising,
Is Klamath Falls today;
The aspiring link of Upper Lake,
And Lower Lake and Bay.
A little city rising,
Already a big would-be,
But dropping josh 'tis all the rage
That Klamath Falls "will be."

'Tis the eye of a mighty octapus,
With one foot in the sea;
Another saps the Lava Beds,
One a Crater's fee.
The Lower Klamath forms its maw.
A monstrous maw has he,
While to its nest from south to east,
Lost River pours a fee.

A sprig of water called the Sprague
Another tribute brings.
From out the east he hails and feeds
A thousand crystal springs.
From silent mountain meadows,
From lakes girt round with pine
Long vitas 'mong the yellow trunks
Beneath the branchy line;
Sleek horses on the hill range,
Fat cattle in the dales,
Was ever such a country
As our highland Klamath dales?

The center of this beauty,
A gem in setting fine,
With wealth in woods and power in floods,
For blanket the yellow pine.
Blessed by two snowy towering peaks,
The octapuses eye;
Linkville once, some decades since,
But Klamath Falls for aye.

—W. W. W.

1898 marble game on Main Street, in front of location now occupied by the City Center Motel. Gold Front Cash Store, T. F. Miner, Prop., at left. Tall building in center distance, still stands, immediately east of the Baldwin Hotel.

—From Maude Baldwin collection.

Dedication

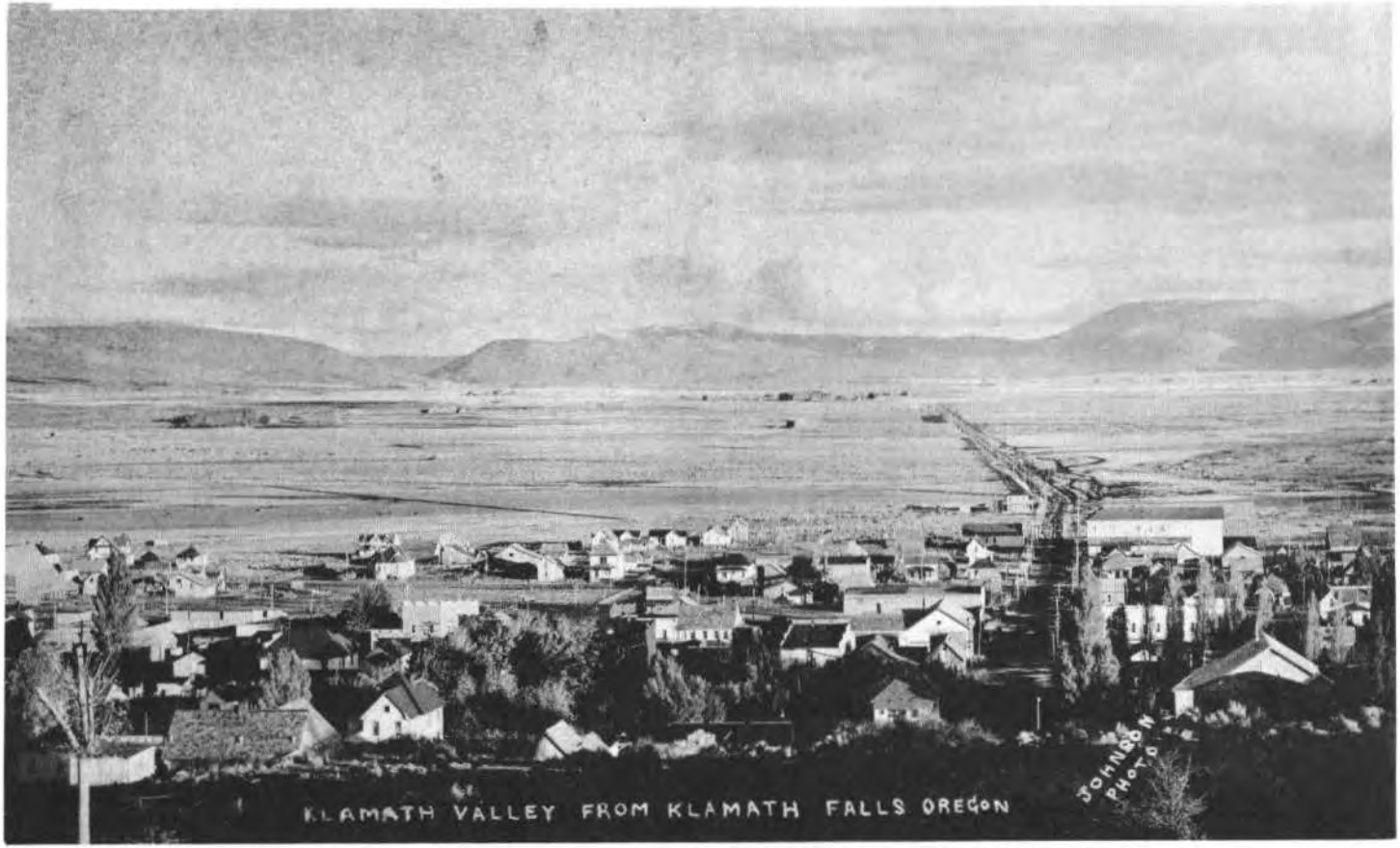
This issue of Klamath Echoes is dedicated to our town, that, right or wrong, "as the 20th Century pulled over the horizon it found a sleepy little town along the shores of Link River, somewhat isolated from the rest of the world, and apparently content to stay that way."

Start of Fourth of July, 1907 parade from "Bunch Town," led by the Klamath Falls Military Band. Buena Vista building on hill at right. Excavation for street car track in center. Does this look natural? —From Maude Baldwin collection.

Fourth of July, 1907, parade on Main Street between Fourth and Fifth. Star Drug at left, now at site of small building and part of Hurn building at right.
—Maude Baldwin photo.

1907 Fourth of July parade led by the Klamath Falls Military Band, headed east on Main Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets. Schallock and Daggett's Grocery, corner of Fifth and Main in center of picture. —Photo Courtesy Klamath County Museum.

Elks Lodge parade of 1911, at First and Main. Building at left, Klamath Falls' first garage, formerly the Midway Livery Stable. —Maude Baldwin collection.



The beginning of present day "String Town." South Sixth, about 1907 or 8. Altamont in the extreme center distance. —Bert C. Thomas collection.

Editor's Page

In the beginning George Nurse founded a community, that, after a few years became known as Linkville. Some twenty odd years later it became Klamath Falls.

In the meantime, two names were applied to parts of the village, perhaps facetiously at first, but very appropriately later, "Bunch town" and "String town."

"Bunch town" was that portion of the town clustered together at and near the intersection of what is now Main Street and Conger Avenue. To those newcomers desiring a business site, who were given the "cold shoulder" by existing businesses, and could not secure a location in "Bunch town," there was an alternative. Main Street stretched away to the east from the river, bounded on the south by the tule and marsh shores of Lake Ewauna, and on the north by a rather steep, rocky hillside, thus limiting expansion north and south. Of a necessity then, businesses kept building eastward along Main Street and this became "String town."

After the railroad arrived, the limits of "Bunch town" were automatically extended, probably at the most to Second, Third or even Fourth Streets. "String town" continued on to the railroad itself, possibly slightly beyond. Thus as the town extended eastward, many businesses and institutions deserted "Bunch town" to relocate farther "up-town" in "String town."

At about the same time, South Sixth Street was opened up to the southeast, through the tule and swamp lands of Lake Ewauna. It extended to a community, Altamont, which was then far out in the country, and for a number of years (January, 1895 to February, 1902), supported a post office and other facilities. And, only in recent years have some road maps, issued by service stations, discontinued the practice of indicating by symbols, that Altamont was as large a town as Klamath Falls. This, it never was.

Businesses began to locate along South Sixth and an extension of Main Street, East Main Street, which ran southward to rejoin South Sixth.

Finally for a number of reasons, rural living, city ordinances, taxes, sewer assessments, etc., business began a renewed building program on South Sixth Street. The Town and Country Shopping Center came into existence. The vacant spots between Klamath Falls and old Altamont began to fill, and building continued on to the Merrill-Lakeview Junction.

Today, that which was once "Bunch town" and "String town" might be considered a new "Bunch town," with South Sixth the new "String town."

New "String town" is now in the process of constructing a new shopping center, Shasta Plaza. "Bunch town" has taken on a new look, with the addition of new motels, remodeling of old buildings, along with several existing service stations, the old Baldwin Hotel, Veterans Park, and the new Off-ramp connecting with the Freeway.

The end is not in sight. Will "String town" continue east to Olene, and south past Henley by the time our next Centennial rolls around?

From the beginning, "Bunch town" has had to fight "String town" for its very existence, even though the boundaries of the two have changed several times.

It is hoped the reasons for "Bunch town" and "String town" will become more apparent after reading the following historical articles.

Klamath Falls can rest assured, however, that it is not alone in the above situation. Practically every town or city in the United States faces the same situation to some degree.

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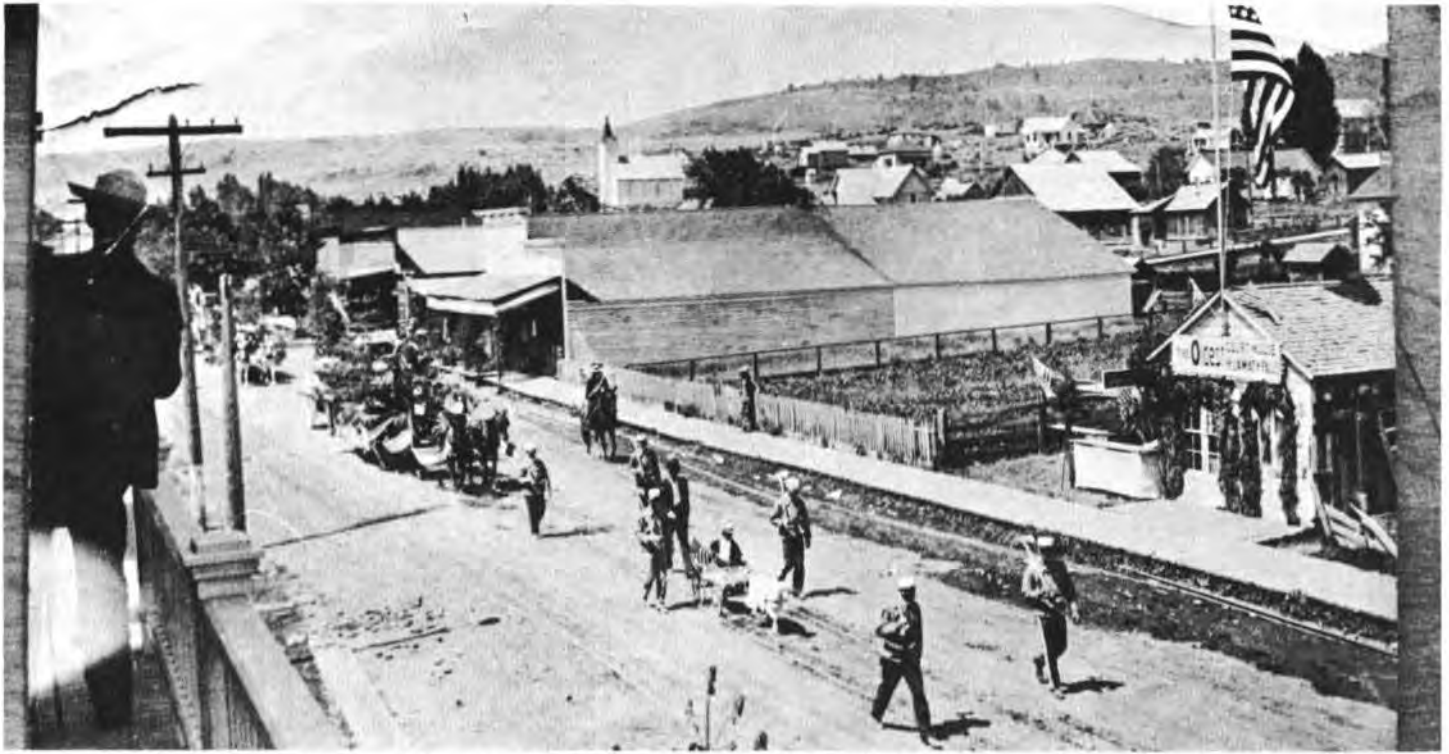
THE COVER. Our cover was drawn by Stephanie Bonotto Hakanson, artist for all preceding issues of *Klamath Echoes*. Depicted is the old Pioneer Nurse Hotel of Linkville, Oregon.

Table of Contents

POEM, "KLAMATH FALLS"	*W. W. W.*	Inside Front Cover
DEDICATION		i
EDITOR'S PAGE		v
KLAMATH ECHOES STAFF		vi
COURT HOUSES OF KLAMATH (Concluded)	*Devere Helfrich*	1
FOOTLIGHTS TO RAMPLIGHTS	*R. E. (Dick) Teater*	15
BALDY EVANS	*Malcolm Epley Jr.*	40
THE BANKS OF KLAMATH COUNTY	*J. W. Siemens*	42
AS TOLD TO ME	*Mrs. Jennie Crandall*	43
REMINISCENCES	*William A. Delzell*	44
BANKING STORIES OF EARLY DAYS	*Ida Odell*	50
KLAMATH FALLS ONLY BANK ROBBERY	*The Klamath Republican, Jan.* 21, 1909	52
AS TOLD TO ME	*Ray Telford*	54
THE BANKS OF KLAMATH FALLS	*Devere Helfrich*	55
LIVERY STABLES AND BLACKSMITH SHOPS	*Devere Helfrich*	63
THE BALDWIN HOTEL	*Ruth King, Herald and News Sept.* 3, 1961	66
THE WHITE PELICAN	*Devere Helfrich*	71
THE ELKS TEMPLE	*Devere Helfrich*	85
TOPSY GRADE TREK	*Dorothy Teater*	88
THE GOLD BUG MINE	*The Klamath Republican, Oct.* 5, 1905	91
WEARS TROUSERS; WOMAN PINCHED	*The Klamath Republican, Aug.* 29, 1912	91
HITCHING RACKS ARE NEXT	*The Klamath Republican, Oct.* 6, 1913	92
LETTER TO THE EDITOR	*Mrs. Ruby (Wilbur) Morton*	93



A last minute important find: This photo brought to the Klamath County Museum by Mr. Everett Bell, was taken on July 4th, 1907, by an unknown photographer. The picture shows the Modern Woodmen of America and their prize winning float, traveling east on Main Street in the 500 block of Klamath Falls. The real find of this photo is the small wooden building, at the extreme right, flying the American flag. It was Klamath County's first courthouse (July 8, 1884 to July 2, 1888 inclusive), a rented building, belonging to G. W. Smith, the first Klamath County Judge. The little building was located near the northwest intersection of Sixth and Main Streets, at approximately the present site of the Bowden Music Company, 527 Main, or the Blue Ox Restaurant, 535 Main. Only two old-timers ever mentioned remembering this building when we published our first Centennial Issue. They were the late Charm (Emmit) Johnson and Hal Ogle.

—Editor.

Court Houses of Klamath . . .

(CONCLUDED)

(Compiled by Devere Helfrich from The History of Klamath County, by Rachael Applegate Good, pp. 79-86), and supplemented by extracts, inclosed in parenthesis, from an article by Floyd L. Wynne in the *Herald and News,* July 16, 1961.)

* * * *

The history of Klamath County is checkered with instances in which the people, eager for progress, have created anomalous situations by failing to consider carefully enough the legal aspects of their plans. At one time the city of Klamath Falls had three charters, at another time two mayors, again a mayor who served a term of office, and an aggressive one at that, without having been, in the opinion of many of the citizens, legally qualified for election. Linkville Precinct once had two justices of the peace and Klamath County two county judges, but the prize story of all is that of the three courthouses. Because many of the later comers wonder just how this came about, I shall tell this story in some detail as I have gleaned it from a study of the newspaper files of the period. It is my purpose to relate the actual circumstances without bias toward either side and let the reader, if he wishes, impute the motives.

On January 31, 1907, a bill was introduced in the legislature to provide a $75,000 bond issue for a new Klamath County courthouse. Although the hill did not survive the session, its introduction is an indication that Klamath County was becoming dissatisfied with the $3,500 structure built in 1888. By 1909, with the railroad boom, the situation was growing acute, but the $14,000 in the treasury for courthouse purposes was deemed insufficient to start a new building, so a flimsy wooden addition was built to house the offices of the County Assessor and Surveyor. During 1910 the Klamath Development Company tendered the court five acres in Hot Springs Addition, the new residence district it was promoting, with rights to sufficient hot water from the springs nearby to heat the new courthouse forever. The idea seemed to catch the imagination of the people and a straw vote conducted throughout the county brought favorable results, but almost immediately there was filed in the circuit court an application for a temporary injunction restraining the court from accepting the Hot Springs site. The legal objection as stated was that when Linkvillle was designated as the county seat, it consisted of blocks one to forty, as platted by George Nurse. The suggested site, being outside these 40 blocks, was not a part of the county seat and could not, therefore be a legal place for a courthouse. The court countered by asking for suggestions as to other sites obtainable without cost and on as favorable terms as those offered by the Klamath Development Company. Since no other free sites were offered, and the Klamath Development Company followed up its offer by giving a deed to the proposed site on June 30, 1911, the county court announced on December 11 of that year its decision to build thereon. (The deed of the KD Company, however, specified that a courthouse of a value of not less than $200,000 was to be constructed on the site.—Editor) A review of conditions was published, with the statement that to defer the decision until the next general election, two years later, would occasion undue delay and the court hoped that "if legal complications ensue, the matter may be decided on its merits and without personalities being indulged in." The statement was signed by William S. Worden, Judge, and Samuel T. Summers and Charles G. Merrill, Commissioners, and proved to be the ultimatum that precipitated the conflict of more than a decade.

On January 4, 1912, a new organization known as the (Klamath Falls—Editor) Commercial Club presented to the court a signed offer of a site bounded by Main,

Pine, First and Center streets, being two blocks, or a tract 240 by 280 feet, as against the original site, which is 240 feet square, or the five acres in Hot Springs, which the donors of the new site claimed was worth only about a third as much. This offer was signed by Hiram Murdoch, Fred Melhase, J. A. Maddox, G. W. White, L. F. Willits, and Alex Martin, Jr.—the "starting lineup" on the Main Street side of the controversy

(The banks that appear to be represented in the offer, indirectly, were the First National, through vice-president Alexander Martin Jr., and the American Bank and Trust through Fred H. Melhase, its president.

Avowedly, the group was determined to keep the courthouse located near its present site which was the block it now occupies. The court had announced in late 1911 that it was going to accept the KD Company's offer, but the new offer forced them into a position of reconsidering.—Wynne)

On February 12 a petition signed by 44 property owners of the west end requested the court to make an answer to the recent offer (Feb. 22, 1912, the Commercial Club pushed the county court to make a decision); in March, the club filed a protest with the governor, then Oswald West, in which they charged the county court with extravagance in the sale of the old poor farm site and the purchase of a new one with the construction of an infirmary.

However, the apparent real reason behind the protest was contained in these words: "The court has threatened to build a court house on a tract of land outside the legal limits of the county seat as established by a vote of the people. The building of a court house on this site would entail an obligation of not less than $200,000 and the maintenance of the same as a county court house forever. An additional $100,000 would be incurred in fitting up the grounds. This would plunge the county so deeply in debt that our taxes . . . already unreasonably high, will be increased almost to the point of confiscation."

This letter to the governor was signed by Charles Graves, president, and C. P. Stewart, secretary, Klamath Falls Commercial Club.

(County Judge William S. Worden re-

The Klamath County Hot Springs Court House, in the late 'teens or early twenties. Probably no further work was ever done on the building after this picture was taken.
—Miller photo, Bert C. Thomas collection.

plied in print that "All of the transactions and records are on file here and open to inspection of any of the people of the county."—Wynne)

On March 28 the Klamath Development Company lowered the original requirement that the courthouse built on their site should cost $200,000 or more to stipulate a $100,000 building, and later waived the cost requirement altogether.

(On March 30, 1912, the county court declined the offer of the Commercial Club in a long written statement. The court pointed out that it had replied to suggestions made during 1911 and had asked for public opinion on the KD site, and had inquired as to whether any other sites were available. They also stated that they had agreed that the Henley block would have been satisfactory and was available, but had not been offered.

The letter also pointed out that "Had you accepted the court's offer and secured the Henley block under the conditions imposed by the court, there would now be standing at least the walls and roof of a fine courthouse building." They also stated that they had an estimate that it would cost only about $2,000 to develop the KD site, and because of the Ankeny Canal on the offered site of the Commercial Club, were going to proceed with the Hot Springs site. — Wynne)

About April 1 Hiram Murdoch (retained lawyer C. C. Brower — Wynne), and brought an injunction against the county court, urging his former contention that the Hot Springs site was outside the county seat.

(Murdoch also began circulating a petition to recall the county court. His complaint was later amended to claim that the county's voluntary debt limit was over $250,000 in excess of the limitation provided by the Oregon constitution. The injunction case was tried in May.—Wynne)

On June 13, 1912, Judge J. S. Coke of Marshfield, before whom the suit was tried, overruled the injunction, giving the opinion that when in June, 1884, the people of Klamath County voted for Linkville as their county seat, they were not voting for the George Nurse plat but for the community, which even then had spread beyond the original 40 blocks.

The *Klamath Republican* announced jubilantly that the courthouse case was settled; perhaps nobody realized at the time that the contending factions had "just begun to fight."

(The Commercial Club refused to accept Judge Coke's decision, and appealed to the State Supreme Court. Meantime, the county court paid $3,000 in lawyer fees for its defense of the case up to that point.

However, while the appeal was pending, the court ordered work to commence on the courthouse on the Klamath Development Company site.

On the morning of Friday, July 26, 1912, Judge Worden turned the first shovel of dirt for the new courthouse, to cost $165,000. It was to be a beautiful structure of concrete, 175 feet long, 75 feet wide and 60 feet high. There were to be two stories above a full basement and a jail on top. The entire building was to be heated by hot water from the springs about 1,000 feet away.

It appeared again that the battle was over because horses and scrapers went to work immediately on the foundation.

Aug. 8, 1912, the *Klamath Republican* carried a story under the heading "Court House Case Settled" which carried the Supreme Court decision upholding Judge Coke.

Work continued to progress on the new courthouse site, but those opposing the move were not finished.—Wynne)

In January of the next year, 1913, Judge Worden was charged by the grand jury with extravagance in office, the particular offense mentioned being the use of metal culverts in roadmaking rather than the wooden ones that had heretofore been considered good enough, but he seems to have successfully defended his action for the time; also an objection to the legality of the levy for courthouse purposes was overruled by Circuit Judge Henry L. Benson. Meanwhile

the contract had been let and the new courthouse was beginning to rise on the disputed site. The next gun fired in the campaign came in the form of a petition, there were 39 separate petitions, signed by 670 citizens and filed by Frank Ward on May 15, 1913, in which the County Judge was charged with being an employee of a large corporation, Klamath Development Company, with being extravagant in his road building policy, and of being incapable of erecting a courthouse at a moderate cost, and which demanded his resignation within five days on pain of a recall election. The petitioners stated that the location of the courthouse was a matter of indifference to them, but that they didn't want the county "plunged into debt" when another judge could erect a building more economically.

(In reply to this new charge, Judge Worden said, "I am ready for the people of Klamath County to pass on this question of recall and abide by their verdict."—Wynne) The majority of the voters of the county, however, seemed inclined to doubt the disinterestedness of the petitioners, since the recall election on June 5 (2nd—Editor) resulted in a vote of 2,256 to 951 in favor of Worden, the only precincts voting against him being West Klamath Falls and Poe Valley. The Worden supporters carried their victorious candidate through the streets in a long procession led by the (Klamath Falls Military Band—Editor) and kept up a hilarious celebration until midnight, declaring the victory was not that of a single man, but a victory for progress.

(The marchers were followed by 50 autos crowded with Worden adherents. In a speech, Worden said, "In less than 10 days work will be resumed on the new courthouse and the plans of the county court for the completion of this structure will be carried out. It is to be completed as soon as possible at a cost of $165,000. The *Klamath Republican* termed it "The vote given Judge Worden is the largest ever polled in Klamath County. Instead of being a recall election, it turned out to be merely a testimonial on the part of Klamath County's citizenship for the policies in permanent road building, courthouse construction and other progressive matters of vital public interest."—Wynne)

As this was the first election held in Klamath County since Oregon had adopted the women's suffrage amendment, the two sides of the controversy probably held different opinions as to the wisdom of Women's participation in politics. (In the election, Frank Ira White was the candidate of the recall group.—Wynne) After the election County Treasurer Siemens was ordered to pay all courthouse warrants presented to him, and more than three thousand dollars went to workmen on the new building, many of whom had received no wages since February 6.

On December 4, 1913, however, came the first thrust of the weapon that eventually gave the death blow to the Hot Springs Courthouse. R. N. Day, Secretary of Day Brothers' Lumber Company, and probably representing other timber interests, brought suit against the county officers, attacking the legality of the warrants for nearly all road construction since Judge Worden had taken office, for the purchase of the site for the new county poor farm, for the expenses of the farm, for the cruise of county timber —in short, for all voluntary indebtedness incurred by the county since January, 1911. (...a suit was instituted to stop payment on about $300,000 worth of warrants issued by the county court. The suit named C. C. Low, sheriff; J. W. Siemens, county treasurer; C. R. DeLap, county clerk; John Hagelstein, and C. G. Merril, commissioners, and William S. Worden, county judge.—Wynne) Mr. Day's claim was that all these warrants were issued in excess of the legal limitation, and he continued to bring suit at intervals for the next year every time the court attempted to issue warrants to pay expenses. Although the issuance of warrants in excess of the constitutional limit was a common practice, all but two counties in the state having erred in the same way at the time the matter was called to public attention, the lumbermen and their attorneys, D. V. Kuykendall and Charles Ferguson,

The Carnegie Library building erected in the fall of 1913 to house the County Library, stood just west of the Hot Springs Court House building.

—Bert C. Thomas collection.

had found a powerful weapon against what they considered reckless spending. County expenditures from the general fund dropped from $296,179 in 1913 to $85,364 in 1914. (Meantime, only small amounts of money were available for further construction of the new courthouse, and work progressed slowly.

In the interim, a move to build a Carnegie Library adjacent to the building courthouse was also attacked, but eventually the Carnegie Institute authorized $20,000 for the structure and it was built in the fall of 1913.—Wynne)

As the time for the general election, in the fall of 1914, approached, pressure was brought to bear for the withdrawal of Judge Worden, as it was understood the Day suits would be dropped in case of his compliance, and the impairment of the county's credit was becoming a public nuisance. While this plan was under discussion it was found that the state constitution had been amended four years before to give county judges a six-year instead of four-year term. In view of this development, Worden declared he would go before the people of the county, not as a candidate seeking office, but as a public officer making a report, and show them that for every dollar he had spent they had received good value in improvements and useful public works. He started this educational campaign with a lecture at the Houston Opera House in which he displayed 300 slides.

Meanwhile, the name of the rival candidate, Marion Hanks, nominated before the constitutional amendment had become a factor in the situation, had remained on the ballot and had drawn to itself 291 more votes than the Worden name, creating the anomaly of two county judges at once. (However, work on the courthouse stopped when Hanks was elected, pending a decision of the courts on just who was judge.—Wynne) On January 5, 1915, Judge Worden gave the oath of office to County Clerk DeLap, who in turn gave it to the rival claimant, Marion Hanks, and both adopted a policy of watchful waiting until the Supreme Court should decide which was the legal head of Klamath County. A month later the decision was handed down that, since the constitutional amendment had be-

come effective a few weeks later than Worden's election to a four-year term, his time had now expired and Mr. Hanks was his duly qualified successor.

Immediately an agreement was reached among all parties concerned in the protested warrant situation, and the contract with the Chapman Construction Company for the completion of the Hot Springs Courthouse was repudiated. By the previous November, when Hanks was elected and work was suspended pending the decision of the county judge question, the building had reached a point where it was under cover. It had cost $112,000 to date and the estimated cost of completion was around sixty thousand dollars. Nothing further was done about the courthouse for almost two years. The new County Court was busy with problems of recovery from the unfortunate financial situation existing when it came into office, a debt of $532,387. By July, 1916, the County Clerk reported that the county indebtedness had been reduced $164,395 in 18 months—$103,719 in the last six—the courthouse debt from $20,830 to $4,382. (Meantime, the partially completed courthouse stood empty, with no work being done while the county continued to use the old, crowded, run-down courthouse. —Wynne) Then, in December of 1917, in the midst of World War headlines, appeared a modest item stating that architects from outside points were expected to arrive in a few days to estimate the cost of completing the courthouse, and soon Klamath's own private war was again raging.

(Jan. 22, 1918, three estimates were published on completion of the Hot Springs Courthouse which now had stood idle for more than three years.

E. E. McLaren, Lumber Exchange Building, Portland, submitted an estimate of $120,000 to complete the building, but an estimate of $210,000 if it was to be completed according to early specifications.

R. E. Cushman, Portland, estimated $193,000 for completion of the building, and another $30,000 for the grounds.

John George Kelley Jr., another Portland architect, said the building was developing cracks of a very serious nature. After citing other examples of interior construction, he said the building could not be completed except by a heavy investment, and suggested it would be better to abandon it and build another one elsewhere. He estimated the cost of completion at over $240,000.

It was reported the next day that a fourth firm, A. F. Heide of San Francisco, took a more optimistic view and estimated the cost of completion at $138,000 complete according to specifications, or at a minimum cost of $116,000 with some modifications.

Monday, Feb. 11, a delegation of citizens appeared before the county court inquiring as to what the court intended to do about finishing the Hot Springs Courthouse. The group cited provisions of a recent contract signed by the court with a Portland architect which authorized a call for bids for construction of a new courthouse.

A series of questions was posed to the court about its intention in regard to the Hot Springs Courthouse. The questions were signed by E. L. Elliott, chairman, W. T. Lee, secretary, and a committee listed as M.. D. Evans, R. A. Emmitt, J. W. Siemens, and Charles Wood Eberlein.

On Feb 20, 1918, the Portland architect firm of E. E. McClare and Houghtaling and Dougan were authorized to receive bids to complete the Hot Springs Courthouse, and to receive estimates on the cost of a new structure like that of Josephine County.

County Commissioner Frank J. McCornack said this was being done to determine whether or not the county would lose money by completing the partially finished structure. Petitions containing more than 1,000 names were presented to Judge Marion Hanks on March 6, by Burrell Short, Commissioner, reminding him he had been elected on a platform of completing the Hot Springs Courthouse as quickly as possible. —Wynne)

The petition further called attention to his pre-election promise of three years before and demanded a clear statement of his intentions within 24 hours. Judge Hanks

replied that he was trying to find out which course would serve the best interests of the county—to complete the Hot Springs building, which was now reported to have settled at two corners and cracked at one and to be hardly worth finishing, or to build an entirely new structure on Block 35, beside the old courthouse. If the architects' reports showed the latter course to be less expensive he would consider himself false to the spirit of his promises if he did otherwise than adopt it.

(On Wednesday, March 20, came the big death blow to the Hot Springs Courthouse. Bids were opened, and in each instance, the bids were higher to finish the Hot Springs Courthouse than to construct an entirely new one. — Wynee) Legal machinery sprang into action with an injunction against abandoning the Hot Springs site, brought by John Koontz through Attorney E. L. Elliott on March 20, 1918.

On April 5, 1918, two items appear: Robert Bunnell filed for County Judge on the recall ticket and Marion Hanks announced that he had found that it would cost $50,000 less to build a new courthouse than to finish the old one and would govern himself accordingly. Having been elected as a business man, he would be violating the confidence placed in him to take other than the business course.

(The county court then authorized J. M. Dugan and Company of Portland to build a new courthouse on the site where the original courthouse of 1889 stood, at a cost of $131,775.

The same firm had built the courthouse at Grants Pass, Oregon, acclaimed as an ideal model. They had bid $181,546 to complete the Hot Springs Courthouse.

Judge Hanks and Commissioner Frank McCornack signed the contract, but commissioner Burrell Short refused to sign the papers.—Wynne)

On April 12, 1918, the Klamath Development Company demanded a return of its deed to the Hot Springs site, not because the county was not welcome to the property if it wished to use it, but in the hope of stopping construction on the Main Street site, which had already begun.

On April 23, 1918, Judge Hanks was recalled by a heavy vote in the country districts, the city breaking about even, and Robert Bunnell was installed as County Judge. The new court, over the protest of Frank McCornack, Commissioner, ruled that when the contract was made, in March, there were no funds in the treasury for courthouse purposes and the contract was therefore null and void. The Sheriff, on May 2nd, was instructed to serve notice on the contractor to cease work—but the contractor continued. Suit was brought, on May 14th, by the County Court against Contractor Dougan, Marion Hanks, E. E. McClaran, Frank McCornack, and C. R. DeLap, for recovery of $41,548 already spent on construction.

(However, contractor J. M. Dougan said as he was under heavy bonds to complete the contract, he would go ahead with construction.

On June 26, the court signed a contract with H. D. Heide, San Francisco, to prepare modified plans for the Hot Springs Courthouse completion within 30 days. Meantime, Judge Calkins, Medford, overruled the demurrer to the indictment against the old court.

The third courthouse, however, kept on rising right next to the old original courthouse in the downtown vicinity. A bill for $20,000 was presented by Dougan to the county court, but they refused to pay it.—Wynne) ... it disallowed all bills presented by Contractor Dougan on the ground that he must show he had a legal contract—but Dougan continued to build.

(Meantime, another suit had developed when C. R. DeLap, county clerk, declined to issue a warrant for $200.12 to A. F. Heide for work on Hot Springs Courthouse, declaring he had already gotten in enough trouble by issuing warrants in connection with the courthouse controversy.—Wynne)

On July 8, 1918, the County Court offered the Block 35 property for sale, setting August 10th, for the opening of bids—but the new building thereon steadily advanced

toward completion. Two things were encouraging Contractor Dougan in his course: a large sum of money raised by private subscription among supporters of the Main Street Courthouse was being supplied him for expenses, with the understanding that it would be returned if and when his contract was declared legal by the courts; and Judge Calkins of Medford, before whom the case was eventually to be tried, had enjoined the County Court from selling the site, using money to complete the Hot Springs building, or interfering with Contractor Dougan.

(In August, 1918, Frank Ward, who had led one of the earlier fights, joined with Charles Loomis to file a suit challenging the warrants issued by the present county court, primarily against County Judge Robert H. Bunnell and County Commissioner Burrell Short.

This item also noted that a warrant issued for $90 to P. J. Dowling for guarding the Hot Springs Courthouse during the period when it was alleged that materials were being removed from that building to the Main Street structure, was attacked by the group.

Spanish influenza hit the Klamath Falls area in October, 1918, causing a ban on meetings, schools, and also putting a temporary crimp in the courthouse war.

Meantime, work on the Main Street Courthouse continued and it neared completion as 1918 ended.

The county court, however, had issued an order in late December, restraining all county officers from moving into the building once it was completed. A suit was also filed against the court and the budget item of $20,000 for courthouse construction and $4,000 for attorney fees in connection with the battle.

December 24, Circuit Judge Calkins dissolved his injunction against the county court taking action on the courthouse matter. . . .

With the new year of 1919 came a new injunction against the county filed by C. F. Stone, Thomas Drake, C. J. Ferguson, A. E. Reames and Harrison Allen preventing them from doing any work except on the Main Street Courthouse structure. — Wynne)

On February 27, 1919, less than a year after the work was started, E. E. McClaran inspected the new courthouse, issued the final certificate to Contractor Dougan, tendered the keys to the County Court, and requested a warrant for his fee as architect. The County Court courteously but unbendingly refused to accept the keys and disclaimed any knowledge of moneys due him. The architect finally gave the keys to Sheriff Humphrey and left for Portland, his only recourse being the courts. (In March, the most recent suit against the county court was dismissed and the court was free to resume work on the Hot Springs Courthouse if it wished. On March 14, J. M. Dougan started suit for his pay, naming as defendants all those who had brought actions against him, thus combining all the suits into one. Judge Calkins granted him a temporary order restraining the County Court from spending any money from the courthouse fund until his bill of $92,647.45 was paid, and thus the matter rested at the turn of the decade. An audit of the county books showed that a total of $423,090 had been raised for building a courthouse, but very little was on hand to pay for the newest one, even if the court had wanted to pay for it.

June 18, the county court filed a 92 typewritten page manuscript in the courthouse case with the circuit court. In August, 1919, the county court approved plans for completion of the Hot Springs Courthouse submitted by architect A. F. Heide. However, funds in the county were insufficient for extensive work, and the injunction against the court was still pending. Also, in August, Benjamin McDougall who was architect for the Hot Springs Courthouse, filed suit against the county for back fees amounting to $6,369.90. At this time, the Hot Springs Courthouse had been standing half completed for almost four years.— Wynne)

Nineteen hundred and twenty dawned on

the following scene: On a sightly eminence east of the main town of Klamath Falls, dominating the landscape between it and the hillside known as Hot Springs residence section, stood a stately brick structure in Greek design with a facade of columns on the south and flanked on the west by a low, neat building of gray concrete with red tile roof. This was the Hot Springs Courthouse, a subject of litigation from the time its site was first suggested in 1910 until construction was stopped several years later with the exterior finished and the interior a maze of structural steel comprehensible only to an architect. Its modest companion was the Carnegie Library, still so far from the center of population that the office of librarian was little more than nominal, books being circulated only by requisition from the City Library or the school libraries of the county. On Main Street, Block 35 of the original town, was a commodious three-story structure of light pressed brick, suitable, to all appearances, for service as a county courthouse but as yet unsullied by human use. On the eastern half of the same block remained the official courthouse, a two-story wooden building dating from 1888, by now weatherworn and ramshackle beside its trim new neighbor and threatening to burst asunder with the volume of county business. Two departments of the county administration, in fact, were housed in an annex at the rear, even more ramshackle in appearance than the main building.

The county of 11,000 inhabitants and its county seat of less than five thousand were recovering from the effects of the World War and the disastrous flu epidemics of the two succeeding winters. As our scene opens the town was still in quarantine, all public meetings, both educational and social, being under ban, from fifty to a hundred meals a day being furnished by the Red Cross from the kitchen of the Presbyterian Church to families in which no adult member was left unstricken, and 21 patients for whom no other place was found, being housed in the new Main Street Courthouse—the first use made of that building.

The court house block in the 1920-1922 period. Part of the 1888 court house at the extreme left, present courthouse center and the Women's Library Club building at the right.
—Photo Courtesy Klamath County Museum.

Early in the year 1920 a committee of citizens called upon the *Evening Herald* to request its support in a move to end the courthouse controversy, a consummation earnestly desired, no doubt, by the entire community, tired of being the butt of ridicule yet meeting it in a gallant spirit illustrated by the remark of State Senator George T. Baldwin in Salem that "no county but Klamath could support three courthouses." When a lecturer climaxed a story about the dubious safety of a slight young guard in the insane asylum with the statement that "insane people never get together," Klamath Falls took the thrust in good part and laughed heartily; yet it was commonly felt that the show had gone on long enough. However, currents of thought and action once set in motion cannot be stopped at will, and it was nearly three years before the legal solution was reached and nearly seven before "finis" could be written at the close of the story.

At this time a suit was pending before the circuit court, brought by J. M. Dougan, the contractor on the new building, for the remaining cost of construction, something over ninety-two thousand dollars. Dougan's contention was that at the time he was notified to cease operations he had been to considerable expense for materials, there was no money in the county treasury to pay for them, and his only recourse was to proceed and demand payment at the completion of the job. The County Court held the contract illegal and subsequently introduced witnesses stating that there was no entry of such a contract in their records. Judge F. M. Calkins of Medford suggested a hearing before a referee and named Mrs. Louise Ferguson, Klamath County Court Reporter, to act in that capacity but, upon an affidavit of prejudice being filed against him by the County Court, turned the case over to Judge J. W. Hamilton of Douglas County. Testimony was completed in April, 1920, and arguments heard at Roseburg in May. On July 17, Judge Hamilton gave his decision that the contract was illegally entered into and that the County Court should recover from Dougan the $41,000 already paid him from the treasury as well as costs of the suit, and might proceed to complete the Hot Springs Courthouse. As this was the platform on which Judge Bunnell had been elected to office, he and his supporters were jubilant. However, the cost of completing the Hot Springs project was variously estimated at from one to two hundred thousand dollars, and the idea of spending that much more for a courthouse when we already had two did not make a universal appeal.

At this juncture the *Evening Herald* came forward with these suggestions: Let the county officers occupy the Main Street Courthouse and sell the Hot Springs building and site to the school district. A new school is needed and the Klamath Development Company, which donated the site for courthouse purposes in 1910, would doubtless consent to have it so used. The amount realized from this sale, plus $41,000 recovered from Dougan and the amount now in the courthouse fund would amount to a quarter of a million dollars. If this were put into a road fund and matched by the state, and the resulting half million matched by the Federal Government, we would have a million dollars for roads without spending another penny—and a brand new up-to-date courthouse besides. On this platform George Chastain ran against Bunnell for the office of County Judge in the fall of 1920, but was defeated.

Meanwhile, in July, Judge Hamilton's decision had been appealed to the Supreme Court and the County Court enjoined by that body from spending any more money on the Hot Springs Courthouse. Within a month of the county election came the Supreme Court's decision reversing that of Judge Hamilton and declaring the Dougan contract legal. In view of conflicting instructions from above and below—since he considered his re-election a clear mandate of the people to continue in his former course, County Judge Bunnell put into the county budget for 1921 an experimental item of $50,000 for completing the Hot Springs Courthouse. This item was prompt-

ly enjoined by Dougan's attorney. County Clerk DeLap, who had been refused his request to move the county records into the more commodious and secure quarters of the new building, acting upon advice of District Attorney C. C. Brower, omitted the item from the warrant for collection of taxes; and County Assessor J. P. Lee refused to accept the warrant without it. This brought the controversy to a state of which the public was bound to take cognizance, for without the collection of taxes the whole county administration was crippled and the value of county, city, and irrigation district securities impaired. An appeal to the Supreme Court by J. P. Lee on mandamus to compel the County Clerk to revise the warrant was met with a cold refusal to rehear the Klamath County courthouse case.

The death of J. P. Lee of heart failure the following day will always be connected in the minds of his Klamath friends with this refusal, although there may be no scientific basis for the connection. Assessor J. P. Lee was a veteran of the Confederate Army, a relative of General R. E. Lee, and a man universally loved and respected. The leading of his horse with its empty saddle in the next Memorial Day parade was indicative of the esteem in which he was held.

But the immediate problem was how to meet the county's obligations, including the more than ninety-two thousand dollars due Contractor Dougan, which the Supreme Court ruled must be paid to the last penny even if it required a special levy. The County Court was forced by the exigencies of the case to agree to the collection of the taxes without the disputed item, although Judge Bunnell was still devising ways and means of financing the finishing of the Hot Springs Courthouse. He even considered selling the new building for this purpose, but the market for courthouses seemed to be overstocked. By this time the need of a place of detention for county prisoners was becoming critical. The old County Jail had long since become unfit for use, the quarters in the basement of the City Hall were overcrowded, and the half story at the top of the new courthouse originally intended for that purpose was not completed. When the grand jury recommended that this jail be completed at once, Judge Bunnell included in the budget for 1922 an item of $15,000 for completing the jail, but true to his cause, atop the Hot Springs Courthouse building. The result of this move was exactly the same as that of the similar action of a year before. Collection of taxes was tied up by an injunction until it was dissolved by mutual consent late in April.

Meantime the prolongation of the struggle became increasingly irksome to all parties. Judge Skipworth of Eugene, Judge Calkins having disqualified himself, was asked if all pending legal action could not be dismissed and the matter thus settled, but he expressed the opinion that the case should be tried on its merits to determine which was the legal courthouse, the Dougan suit having decided merely the legality of the contract. Accordingly, Frank Ward et al. brought before Judge Skipworth's court a complaint praying that the county officers be enjoined from using the old courthouse and compelled to move the records, vault doors, which had been purchased by Contractor Dougan, and other appurtenances of the county government into the new building on Block 35. At the same time the county brought suit against the Klamath Development Company, original donors of the Hot Springs site, who had by now declared their intention to repossess their property and with it the stately structure that had cost the couny at least a hundred and fifty thousand dollars but was clearly destined never to become a courthouse. Testimony on both cases was taken by Judge Skipworth in Klamath Falls in July, 1922, and on November 18 he rendered his decision in favor of the Main Street building and dismissed the suit of the county against the Klamath Development Company. His decision was upheld by the Supreme Court on September 25 the following year, 1923.

This was accepted as the official end of the 13-year conflict. At the time the de-

The Main Street Klamath County Court House as it looks today, September 4 (Labor Day), 1967. —Helen Helfrich photo.

cision was rendered the building had already been gradually occupied. In September, 1920, Superintendent of Schools J. P. Wells had utilized part of it for overflow classes, the Fairview School building not being ready for occupancy. On December 10, 1920, Judge Campbell of Oregon City, called to try a murder case in circuit court, used the courtroom in the new building, exacting from attorneys on both sides a promise not to raise legal objections on account of the place of trial. The circuit court continued to make use of these quarters thereafter. When Judge Skipworth was holding hearings in July, 1922, County Clerk C. R. DeLap was still obedient to the order of the court to keep the records in the old building, but his son, Loyd DeLap, Circuit Court Clerk, had moved his office to the new. District Attorney C. C. Brower, being a state rather than a county officer, had also occupied quarters there. At the time of the Supreme Court decision these had been joined by the County School Superintendent, the County Agricultural Agent, the State Highway Commission, the Pine Beetle Control Committee, and even the County Clerk. The American Legion had quarters in the basement. In the old building there were still to be found the Sheriff and Justice of the Peace, with the County Surveyor and County Engineer in the annex.

Justice of the Peace Robert A. Emmett, one of the earliest and most respected pioneers of the county, voiced the feeling of th defeated party in these words: "We regret that the county has lost a hundred and fifty to a hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars and has only this flimsy structure to show for it, but we are glad the fight is over and will be good sports and—forget it!"

The epithet of "flimsy structure" had been hurled back and forth during the bel-

ligerent years, and it was a source of secret satisfaction to the adherents of the Hot Springs building when in the spring of 1927 the contractor employed in razing it to make room for the new Klamath Union High School required 30 days and 1000 pounds of dynamite to destroy it.

(Reprinted in part, from the Personal Fortrait of Dr. G. A. Massey, in the *Herald & News* of August 13, 1967: "One of the courthouses stood unoccupied, unfinished and unwanted on the grounds of the present Klamath Union High School. The land for the courthouse had been furnished by the Klamath Development Company and Dr. Massey felt this would be an excellent site for a new and badly needed high school.

"Through the efforts of the committee members, the site was sold to the newly formed Klamath Union High School District—the cost: $1.

" 'The unfinished courthouse building,' Dr. Massey said, 'remained unwanted, as the architects found that it could not be adapted to school use and the district paid $5,000 to get the controversial structure removed.' "
—Editor)

In the Spring of 1924 the old courthouse was sold to the highest bidder, moved to a back street, and remodeled into an apartment house. The scar left by its removal was filled with dirt and soil and was soon covered with a beautiful lawn, showing how soon nature will heal any scar if given a chance.

The sequel to the story runs on for some little time, however, and consists of a series of ingenious jail breaks from the prison on the top of the courthouse, which never proved satisfactory and was finally superseded by a modern county jail for which bonds were voted in May, 1926, and which was open for inspection in October, 1927.

Former County Clerk C. R. DeLap, one of the few principals in the fight who is still living, smiled reminiscently when I asked him if he moved the county records on Sunday, as rumored.

"No," he said, "it was a working day, and there was nothing underhanded about it. I told the court what I intended to do, even though they asked me not to, and then called up Mr. Wattenburg and asked him if he could move the vault doors the next day, which he agreed to do. There was a window in the old courthouse almost opposite to one in the new building and only six or eight feet away, with a sort of landing between. We took out these two windows and laid a couple of planks from one opening to the other, so that it was quite easy to slide the books across, some others helping to load them at one end and take them off at the other. During this process Judge Bunnell came up and asked what I was doing. 'I am moving the records into the courthouse, just as I told you I would,' was my reply. He hurried off to find an attorney to draw up a restraining order, but could not find one who cared to take that action, so we completed our work.

"Oh, no, he didn't offer to restrain me bodily. I think it is greatly to the credit of the people of our county that throughout the whole courthouse struggle, lasting over thirteen years, the weapons used were strictly legal. There was never even a fist fight; and when the legal settlement was finally reached, both sides were willing to forget it and be as good friends as before. Men on both sides of the controversy admired and respected each other for doing what they belived right, even when exasperated by the blocking of their plans. But it is too bad that the money that was spent on the two buildings couldn't have been used for one more adequate structure. The present building isn't large enough for the county; already before I retired from the county clerkship the vaults were full, and no doubt it will soon be imperative that something be done about more space."

(On the site of the Hot Springs Courthouse, was constructed the present Klamath Union High School building. Time has verified the forward looking view of the

The new Court House annex, built in 1962, looking northward from Klamath Avenue. County jail at left, connected to annex by an overpass. —Helen Helfrich photo.

Klamath Development Company, as the city has extended well beyond the site, and today, July 16, 1961, the present courthouse, which was smaller than the one contemplated on the Hot Springs site, must be remodeled and enlarged.

Today, the wing to be added to the present Main Street courthouse will cost more than four times what it initially cost to build the courthouse structure.

Scars of the 15-year-old courthouse war have vanished, but there are many in the community today who will remember the long battle which found one side termed the "Hog Combine," and the other side labelled "The Bolshevicks."

The struggle split the county for many years and undoubtedly hindered industrial progress, but the story of the prolonged courthouse struggle is a tribute to the tenacity of purpose possessed by people in Klamath County.—Wynne)

(On February 20, 1962, the *Herald and News* reported: "...the addition to the courthouse, which is being built by James S. Hickey, Inc., of Portland at a basic bid of $414,795.

"The court had accumulated funds to cover practically all costs of the structure, reports Commissioner Frank Ganong.

"The new addition is 118 feet long by 57 feet high, built on the concrete slab principle. Concrete floor slabs are poured on the ground and lifted into position on the four story frame. The addition is expected to be ready by September 30."—Editor)

Unknown early day Klamath Basin buckaroos on Main Street. Houston's Central building and Opera House in background. —Photo Courtesy Klamath County Museum.

Footlights to Ramplights . . .

THREE SCORE AND TEN

by R. E. (Dick) Teater

At the outset, let it be stated here that this work will deal with buildings and seating for the sole purpose of the entertainment of a paying audience. It is not intended to be a biography of local people employed by the various businesses, although some names will be used as they come up in the research work and interviews conducted in the preparation of the story. Names of many well known persons who once had a part in the history of show business in Klamath Falls will quite naturally be overlooked. However, for those still living in this area as this is written, the omission of certain names does not indicate on the writer's part that their contribution to the same seventy years of entertainment of Klamath Falls theatre goers is any less important.

Klamath Falls' first showman, John V. Houston, entered business in Klamath Falls with his father, James H. Houston, in 1894, in another line of endeavor. The *Klamath Falls Express* of January 10, 1895 remarked that it required considerable nerve on the part of J. H. Houston and his son John V. to undertake to make a popular resort of the "Central", a "huge" structure in the then center of town on which a "hoodoo" seemed to be attached, as businesses of various kinds had been unsuccessfully attempted there. Coming from Colorado in 1894, the Houstons purchased this property, spent quite a sum of money in making the interior at-

Houston Opera House, 1897-1920, near the southwest corner of Second and Main. Bandwagon advertising Fireman's Ball, to be held in the Opera House. Date and identities —Photo Courtesy Klamath County Museum.**unknown.**

tractive, provided billiard and club rooms, and a stock of choice wines and liquors. Portland beer in kegs was freighted seventy-five miles over the mountains. In the one year they had been operating the establishment, their profits had equalled the entire amount of their initial investment and subsequent improvements.

In the year 1897 John V. Houston presented this community with its first building constructed for the purpose of presenting spectator entertainment. Houston's Opera House, the first theatre in Klamath Falls, arrived just thirty years after the first commercial trade was established by pioneer business man George Nurse. The Opera House was located near the southwest corner of Second and Main Sts. next to the Central. When moving pictures first came to Klamath Falls, Mr. Houston operated the machine himself and members of the family provided the music. The employees of Mr. Houston were required to "double in brass" and he had his own brass band which would parade in dark green uniforms before the evening performances. Foresight, with an eye on the times as to its versatility, was shown in the construction of the building. It was equipped with portable seating, so that its use as a dance pavilion and community hall was wide spread, along with boxing matches and basketball games. Its facilities were also used for church services in the early days. The *Klamath Republican* July 6, 1899: "Houston's Opera House, next Sunday, July 9. Sunday school 10:00 A.M. No morning service on account of absence of pastor."

Mr. Houston of course booked all the stock shows and early vaudeville acts that he could profitably bring in during the late nineties. Late in 1900 the people of Klamath Falls were to witness the first motion pictures to be seen in this community. The *Klamath Republican* Dec. 13, 1900: "The exhibition of moving pictures at the Opera House Saturday evening was largely attended and much enjoyed. The reality of the

war scenes, showing the progress of battles, were very impressive and made one feel as though he were actually amidst a fierce and deadly conflict of arms. The entertainment throughout was very interesting:" (The foregoing account is self-explanatory in setting the date of that performance as Saturday, Dec. 8, 1900.)

The next spring an ad appeared in the *Klamath Republican* of April 11, 1901 explaining more in detail what one might see, and a new word had been coined for the process. It went as follows: "Projectroscope Exhibition At Houston's Opera House Friday And Saturday Evenings. This popular entertainment consists of moving panoramas and scenes, in which are all the activity and action of real life—among which are scenes in the Spanish and Boer wars, battles, dances, a cake walk, serpentine and butterfly dances, panorama of the Mississippi River, Rough Riders In Cuba, prize fight of Corbett and Fitzsimmons, a storm at sea, and many other animated views, the whole forming an interesting and perfect exhibition of real life."

By 1907 vaudeville acts were quite evenly interspersed with Mr. Houston's stock company engagements and the few movies he played. These acts were furnished by small independent companies that were on the road in those days, many times delayed by a stuck wagon and other hazards of the road. As entertainers, they were a hardy breed, bearing no resemblance to vaudeville presented by the major circuits that were to come during the next two decades. Adv. *Klamath Republican* April 8, 1907: "10 Great Acts Including The Marvelous Illustrated Parisian Dance, Illustrated Songs, Etc. Bennett's High Class Vaudeville Co. Opera House Friday, April 19."

In some of the earlier stage plays presented, a small troupe of professional principals would use a supporting cast of local talent. *The Evening Herald* Feb. 17, 1908: "Mr. and Mrs. Mong will present their beautiful drama, 'The Clay Baker,' with some of our foremost dramatic talent in the cast." The usual stage productions during that decade at the Opera House would be performed by a company that would present a series of different plays in a given number of days by the same troupe and cast. One of the better received troupes of that day was the Melrose Company, with such stars as Miss Louise Melrose, Mr. James Dillon, Bert Chapman, Helen MacKellar, and others. *The Evening Herald* May 8, 1911: "Miss Melrose will offer several plays which she feels will meet with the approval of her many friends, among them being 'Man Of The Hour,' 'Merely Mary Anne,' 'Alias Jimmy Valentine,' 'Man On The Box,' and as a special feature bill, 'Mrs. Wiggs Of The Cabbage Patch.' One must also consider the added practical standpoint of doing a series of plays at one stand in the days before the railroad because of the travel time involved. Troupes from the south would be required to transport themselves and equipment by rail, stage, and boat to Klamath Falls. One night stands in those days were seldom heard of.

As in the case of many such "firsts," volumes could be written about Houston's Opera House as it had to do with the lives of local citizens, many who sang and danced upon its stage in the early days when it was used for lodge, club, school, and community activities. *The Evening Herald* August 3, 1908: "The most elaborate musical ever attempted by the people of this city will be the production of the comic opera, 'Pinaphore,' the most popular of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, to be given on next Tuesday and Wednesday nights at the Opera House. The following is the cast: Josephine, the captain's daughter, Mrs. Don Zumwalt; Buttercup, a bumboat woman, Mrs. C. B. Henry; Hebe, the admiral's cousin, Miss Leta Nickerson; Sir Joseph Porter, the admiral, T. W. Zimmerman; Captain Corcoran, commanding ship Pinaphore, Ray Walker; Ralph Rakestraw, able seaman, Burge Mason; Dick Deadeye, able seaman, W. H. Mason; boatswain, George T. Pratt; boatswain's mate, Dr. H. A. Heritage; sergeant of marines, Mr. Jones."

After 1908, the two-line ads in the local

briefs in *The Herald* would show the program of films and 'new songs" for that night at the Opera House Old timers will recall these songs as both solos and community singing with the use of slides. Houston's Opera House had a seating capacity of 700 patrons.

This history will deal with dates of the beginnings of the various show businesses where available, and it will show that John V. Houston's was the first of what is called a "chain" or "circuit" operation locally, that of having two or more theatres under one owner in the city.

Iris Theatre on North Sixth near Pine (present site of the new city free parking lot). Theatre entrance, opening to right of Gillette Furniture and left of power pole.
—Courtesy Klamath County Museum.

Early in 1909 a single story frame building was constructed on the west side of North 6th St., just off Main. Occupying the building were two businesses, namely, the McMillan Furniture Co. and Klamath Falls' second theatre, the Iris, with seating for 150 persons. Some of the early residents referred to this little place as the "Nickelodeon".

The building containing these two businesses developed into a two-story structure the following year, 1910, when a second story was added to accomodate an upstairs rooming house, to become known as the Washington. The foregoing account of the evolution of this building was related to the writer in an interview of February 3, 1967, by Mrs. Jennie Crandall, the first proprietor of the Washington Rooming House.

Although the Iris Theatre changed hands a number of times, it was quite a favorite in its day. *The Evening Herald* Aug. 21, 1909: "Last night saw a full house at the Iris Theatre, and this popular little playhouse is firmly established in the affections of the picture-loving public. Mr. J. B. Gammon has found it necessary to enlarge its seating capacity by adding 100 more chairs, which will be put in as soon as they arrive. The innovation of producing pictures in a lighted room has attracted many people who can scarcely believe such a thing possible, but when they enter the place and see the pictures on the screen as perfect as shown in darkened rooms, they become enthusiastic, Mr. Gammon has worked long hours on his invention, and Klamath Falls patrons have the satisfaction of saying they have witnessed the practical use of this newest idea in the moving p i c t u r e business. The film 'Father Jacques Among The Iroquois Indians' is a religious picture of high inspirations. 'The Mardi Gras In Havana' carries one away to the southland. Tonight's bill will include the two above films, with a number of others scarce less interesting."

By December, 1909, the Iris was under the management of George W. Bradley. Mr. Bradley also managed the Oregon Harness Co. on Main St. The plans for the Iris were revealed in the *Klamath Basin Booster Number of the Morning Express* of early December, 1909 as follows: "Klamath Falls' home of refined entertainment is the Iris Theater, operated by George W. Bradley. More than the usual care is experienced here to obtain the latest and best in films and illustrated songs. These wonderful films reproduce accurately everything from a prize-fight to a presidential inauguration, and the Iris Theater has been very enterprising in securing the best feature films that can be obtained. The Iris Theater building was

Sign on the northwest corner of Sixth and Main, present location Gene's Men's Store, directing customers to the Iris Theatre, near the corner of Sixth and Pine. I.O.O.F. building in center, background of picture. —Courtesy Klamath County Museum.

built especially for the purpose, and has all modern conveniences. The seating capacity is now 250, the chairs are comfortable, and you can see from every seat in the house without causing your neck any trouble. Extensive improvements are being made now at the Iris, and when finished the stage will accomodate all traveling companies. A new stage is being built, and new scenery and a drop curtain is being provided. On December 20th the Ralph Darling Stock Co. will open an eleven-day engagement. The Darling Stock Co. is one of the best traveling stock companies on the coast, and they come highly recommended.

The proprietor, Mr. George Bradley, is experienced in the amusement business, and believes the best is none too good for the people of Klamath Falls. He is one of our best known young business men and a Klamath Falls booster in every sense of the word."

Advertisment in *The Evening Herald* of Dec. 24, 1909: "Iris Theater—2 Weeks—Beginning Dec. 24—Change Of Play Every Evening—Richard Darling Stock Co., Bill Empey Van, Mgr.—Tonight—'Across The Blue Ridge,' A Four-Act Western Drama. Specialties Between Acts by Jack Bellman. A Guaranteed Attraction.—Prices For This Engagement 25c and 35c."

The Iris changed hands once more in 1911 when it was purchased by Lester C. and Archie V. Wishard. It by that time featured mostly films, sometimes as many as five, rounded out by local pianists, vocalists, and small local orchestras. *The Evening Herald* May 4, 1911: "The program at the Iris Theatre is up to the high standard of par excellence maintained by that popular showhouse tonight, and will no doubt please its many customers to the utmost. A beautiful story entitled 'Only In The Way' is told in one of the pictures. 'The Right Girl,' 'Henry III,' and 'Winter Sports Of The German Imperial Family' make up the balance of the program. Miss Erma Hoagland, singing one of the latest song successes, 'I've Got Your Number' made quite a hit last night. Miss Hoagland will sing the same song this evening. The price of admission is 10c for adults and 5c for children."

Even in 1911 tricks of the trade were used to drum up business. One of the Wishards' gimmiks is told in a classic ad of

that era: "Iris Theatre, Latest And Best Photoplays, also Illustrated Songs. $5.00 In Gold Given Away Every Saturday Night. Save Your Coupons. Two Shows Every Evening."

At the time this theatre was owned by the Wishards, the furniture store adjoining them on the south was known as Dolbeer and McMillan. The life span of the Iris Theatre was about four years. In the latter part of 1912 it 'died the death of a rag doll" in the words of Lester C. Wishard, one of its last proprietors. After the Iris passed out of existence, the furniture store in the same building was later purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Orval Eskelson. The Balin Furniture at one time occupied these quarters before moving over to Main St. The Gillette Furniture House was another business at one time in this location.

In the year 1910 Mrs. A. B. Sparks opened the Sparks Theatre at 525 Main St. Portable seating was a feature, so that in addition to music, stage acts by both professional and local talent, and the showing of films, the seats could be moved aside and regular dances were held during its early years. During the first year that Mrs. Sparks owned the showhouse that bore her name, she herself enjoyed taking part in the amateur acts and choruses that performed upon its stage. It should be stated here that research has shown that many of the same young people sang solos and comprised choruses at both the Iris and Sparks during that era. Mrs. Sparks did not operate the theatre but about one year, selling out in 1911. What became of Mrs. Sparks after leaving Klamath Falls was related in an item taken from *The Evening Herald* dated July 1, 1912: "Mrs. Sparks Married At Dallas To Railway Man. The following item from the Los Angeles Times will be of interest to a large number of people in this city. It will be remembered that Mrs. Sparks established the moving picture theatre that still bears her name. Since leaving here she has been engaged along similar lines in some of the new railroad towns in Crook County. 'Mrs. A. B. Sparks, former wife of John Milton Sparks, millionaire mining man of Douglas, Arizona and Los Angeles, was quietly married here to H. H. Skewes, a St. Louis railway man, connected with John Stranger and Co., brokers. They will visit St. Louis, Chicago, and New York on their honeymoon trip, after which they will return to central Oregon to make their future home.' "

The man who purchased the Sparks Theatre from Mrs. Sparks to become its second owner was a man of German extraction, according to Lester Wishard in an interview of October 28, 1966. He did not recall the gentleman's name. *The Klamath Chronicle* May 20, 1911: "Amateurs At Sparks Theater. Last night was amateur night at the Sparks Theater and proved to be the biggest success yet attained for this popular showhouse. An excellent program was rendered, and three shows were necessary to accommodate the immense throng that was out to see the amateurs. The pictures of the Panama Canal were excellent and instructive and were watched with the deepest interest. 'The Abernathy Kid's Rescue' was another good motion picture. 'Three Soldiers' was another of the films.

The first number by the amateurs was two splendid selections by members of the military band. The illustrated song, 'Blaze Of Glory' by Miss Bertha Ellis was simply lovely, and she was compelled to respond to an encore three times before the audience would let her go. Miss Ellis is a sweet singer and a great favorite. 'So Long, Mary' by Miss Ellis, accompanied by a chorus composed of the Misses Voss, Everett, Hunsaker, Clara Voss, Erma Hoagland, and Messrs. Summers, Shipton, and Van Leason, completed an excellent program. The amateur programs have become a fixture at the Sparks, and are becoming very popular. They come every Friday night."

In the fall of 1911, Mr. Ed Hoyt became the third owner of the Sparks Theatre, according to *The Evenin Herald* of October 9, 1911. It stated: "Charles E. (Ed) Hoyt has sold the Hoyt Hotel, Fort Klamath, and purchased the Sparks picture house. Grace Ev-

erett, singer, will return to Vancouver, B.C."

In the *Evening Herald* of July 14, 1910, the Odd Fellows lodge announced that a contract had been awarded to R. E. Wattenburg for the construction of a new I.O.O.F. temple at the southwest corner of 5th and Main Sts. To be built of brick, the three-story structure was to cost $41,250. Two days later, on July 16, 1910, the old Masonic hall, built in 1893, was moved back to 5th St. behind where the new I.O.O.F. temple was to stand. On the lot thus vacated, Mr. L. F. Willits announced plans to construct a two-story building of the same material as that of the new Odd Fellows temple, and when completed they side by side would resemble one building. Work began on the I.O.O.F. building on July 27, 1910 and was ready for occupancy in the spring of 1911. The Willits building, completed in 1910, did resemble the I.O.O.F. temple except for white arch trim in front and lower by one story. They did somewhat give the appearance as one building, as Mr. Willits had predicted.

Another J. V. Houston enterprise emerged on the scene with the completion of the I.O.O.F. Temple in 1911. On the lower floor, and nestled up against the Willits building to the west, a theatre was installed by Mr. Houston. He had the interior designed especially for movies. Coining the name for his theatre from the building it occupied, Houston's "Temple Theatre" was born, at 434 Main St. Typical of the showmanship of this man, as told to the write by Claude Davis, whose business was near this location, the Temple was known for a time as the "house with the s q u e a l i n g pipes." Air operated, they were played from a keyboard inside, and when they were blasted, the town would wake up. "J. V." was at it again. Motion picture films were becoming more plentiful by now, and the Temple was a success, with the aid of good showmanship, topped off with good music.

Houston's Temple Theatre, located in I.O.O.F. Temple building, site now occupied by Lyle Kelstrom Insurance Agency. —Courtesy Klamath County Museum.

J V. Houston's son Merle was placed in a position of responsibility in helping to manage this venture. Some growing pains were encountered, it seems, according to the May 15, 1911 issue of *The Evening Herald,* which stated: "Saturday evening manager Houston was compelled to refund money to about two-hundred patrons at 5c and 10c each, owing to a breakdown of the picture machine. While the machine has been repaired, Mr. Houston has ordered another machine which will be installed in case of emergencies. 'The Leading Lady' is a particularly funny Vitagraph picture, shown last night for the first time, which provoked roars of laughter. 'The Irish Washer Woman's' blundering attempts are being talked of on the street today. 'In Old Florida' and 'Madam Rex' are exceptionally good pictures."

The fifth motion picture theatre to make an appearance in Klamath Falls was called the Majestic. *The Evening Herald* of May 31, 1912 stated that the new theatre would open in the recently completed Offenbacher building on Main St. near 6th. Proprietors would be Clem and Offenbacher, Mr. Clem having had theatre interests in the East. According to the ads appearing in the *Herald,* it would indicate that this business was quite short-lived, a matter of months, the last ad appearing on Oct. 16, 1912. The advertising showed that this theatre ran only films, several on a program, much the same as the Temple. The Offenbacher building was later razed and that piece of property cleared, and according to early residents, the Empire Hotel was erected on the property

Star Theatre, about 1913, at 525 Main, originally the Spark's Theatre. Present site of Folger's-Leon's Ladies Store. (L. to R.)—Unknown, Harold Feiss, Harry Borel, Merle Houston, unknown. —Courtesy Klamath County Museum.

by Harry Peltz. This building, at 538 Main St., is one lot west of the intersection of South 6th St. and as this is written is part of the First Federal Savings and Loan Association building, a product of an expansion and modernization program completed in 1959. The upper floors were fitted out as suites of legal and profressional offices.

The Evening Herald Saturday, Oct. 12, 1912: 'The name of the Sparks Theatre has been changed to the Star Theatre. Vaudeville will be a feature of this pretty little playhouse this winter. New scenery has been put in, especially painted by G. A. Garrison, a California scenic artist. Tomorrow will be opened a gala week of vaudeville with the Paul Diablo Co., introducing gems of musical comedy, crisp sketches, and song acts. The usual 4000 feet of film will be shown." John V. Houston had by now acquired this business, so the remodeling, name change, and new policy were in order. This policy would bring to the people of Klamath Falls a regular schedule of vaudeville acts for the first time. The first regular vaudeville circuit to furnish acts for Klamath Falls and the Star was the Sullivan and Considine Circuit of San Francisco.

It will be in order to mention here that the people of Klamath Falls had by now learned that fine talent could be brought in through a concert association idea which functioned on the principle of advance membership sales and the revenue accumulated would provide a guarantee for a certain number of selected shows and theatre rentals. *The Evening Herald* Sept. 10, 1912: "Lyceum Bureau Meets Tonight. Representatives Of Bureau In City. At 7:30 this evening in the chambers of Judge Henry L. Benson will be held a meeting of the members of the Klamath Lyceum Bureau and all those interested in the continuation of the Lyceum course. The purpose of the meeting is to determine if it is the desire of the people of Klamath Falls to continue the series of Lyceum Bureau attractions for another year, and, if so, a list of entertainments will be considered for the season of 1912 and 1913. The Bureau was only organized last year and this has been the first course ever put on here. The Committee had determined to take the responsibility and try one year as an experiment. This year the interest taken by the people will influence the bureau in entering into a contract for another year. The series of attractions have been held at the Opera House." This article is self-explanatory in dating the first association of this type as 1911. In 1912, as explained in the following piece, the first Chautauqua arrived here. *The Evening Herald* June 8, 1912: "The Chautauqua Is Organized. Preliminary stages towards a permanent organization of a Chautauqua Association for Klamath County was completed at a meeting held at 4:00 o'clock Friday afternoon in the chambers of Judge Henry L. Benson. The committee appointed for that purpose made a report suggesting a committee be formed to compose a preliminary organization. On a motion this committee was named and increased to include all those present. The complete list is as follows: T. F. Nicholas, O. C. Applegate, W. P. Johnson, E. R. Reames, Hunter Savage, C. T. Oliver, George H. Feiss, J. S. Stubblefield, E. M. Flynn, H. C. Collins, Father McMillan, C. R. Delap, O. A. Stearns, F. H. True, J. W. Siemens, Fred Shallock, C. S. Moore, A. C. Wren, W. O. Smith, W. P. McMillan, Mrs. Cogswell, Mrs. Mary Jackson, Mrs. O. A. Stearns, W. A. Delzell, H. L. Benson, R. H. Dunbar, W. B. Faught, Dr. C. V. Fisher, W. A. Wirtz, M. D. Coates, E. L. Elliott, George J. Walton, W. S. Slough, and Prof. Fred Peterson. Upon motion the committee determined to form itself into a permanent association. The following officers were elected: W. A. Delzell, President; M. D. Coates, secretary; W. E. Faught, vice president; and Leslie Rogers, treasurer." This concept of community effort carried on through the years and in 1931 a local chapter of the Community Concert Association was formed. C. H. Underwood was the first president, according to *The Evening Herald* of Oct. 9, 1931. The first Community Concert presentation was on Oct. 19 of that

year. Dedicated slates of officers have been handicapped since 1959 in booking a large ballet or any show over a limited number of performers due to the loss of an adequate stage. This is another matter, to be mentioned later in this history.

Klamath Falls has played host to the best circuses and other tent attractions during the heyday of this type of traveling show troupe, including the forementioned Chautauqua presentations, the "Toby" shows, and the Jennings tent shows, enjoyed by young and old alike, during the 1920's. All the top circuses of the nation have performed before Klamath Falls crowds, once considered to be one of the best show towns in Oregon. Some of the circuses, large and small, include Norris and Rowe, Ringling Brothers, Al G. Barnes, Barnum and Bailey, Cole Brothers, and in later years Clyde Beatty Circus, and the combined Ringling Brothers-Barnum and Bailey.

By April 25, 1913 J. V. Houston added some sophistication to his expanding business by heading his advertising column in *The Evening Herald* as "Houston's Metropolitan Amusements". His holdings included Houston's Opera House, Temple Theatre, and the Star Theatre, as mentioned before. For a period of time beginning in 1914, *The Evening Herald* carried an entertainment review column of its own, which they chose to call "At The Theatres". Typical of their reviews was one appearing in the Jan. 23, 1914 edition as follows: "Bill At Theatre Pleases Crowds. Cowboy Fiddlers Prove Versatile, Entertainers Introducing Some Clever Novelties In Their Act. An appreciative audience greeted Butler and Lyons, the cowboy fiddlers, at the Star Theatre last night, and applauded every number from the 'Arkansas Traveler' to 'The Cowboy's Fling'. These clever artists introduced several entirely new novelties with their fiddles and completely captivated the house in a square dance in which they furnished the music, called the figures, and did the dancing. The act is clean and moves rapidly without halt or hitch and is easily the best attraction seen on the local boards for many months. The pictures are especially good also, the feature being a 3-reel drama of love, hate, and revenge. The Star Theatre orchestra continues its excellent musical program, using this week a number of orchestra pieces direct from New York's publishers."

John V. Houston's Metropolitan Amusements had by June 29, 1914 begun advertising for still another business in his ad column. It had included Houston's Opera House, Temple Theatre, and Star Theatre. Now came the Merrill Opera House, "motion pictures Tuesdays and Saturdays, Merrill, Oregon". The Merrill Opera House seated 500.

This same month of June, 1914 brought J. V. Houston his first show business competition since the Iris, Sparks, and short-lived Majestic. *The Evening Herald* June 25, 1914: "The new Orpheus Theatre will open today. The new showhouse, at 1130 Main St., is artistically decorated in red and cream and boasts many new innovations in lighting, ventilation, etc. A 6-piece orchestra will furnish the music. The theatre will feature films and vaudeville acts. The owners of the new enterprise are Archie Y. Tyndall and J. W. Starling." Archie Y. Tyndall was identified as a member of a number of musical organizations. He played bass in the first orchestra organized by Harry Borel, noted Klamath Falls musician, in May of 1912. Mrs. Tyndall was at one time the pianist at the Star Theatre.

The Evening Herald June 26, 1914: "One of the biggest crowds ever assembled for an opening in Klamath Falls swarmed toward the new Orpheus Theatre, opened to the public last night. There were two shows, and more than 700 attended. The opening program was 'Hearts And Swords,' a comedy in two parts, featuring Fred Sterling, and 'Nobody From Nowhere,' a two-part drama. In person was Michael Zarich, xylophone soloist." The advertising slogan for the opening and one used during the time the first owners had it was "Klamath's Klassy Showhouse". The slogan was used in all the ad headings. Admission price for all

seats at the Orpheus was 10c for anybody at any time. The Orpheus building was owned by Maj. C. E. Worden. The interior was constructed especially for film presentation, although there was a stage for vaudeville acts. Intermingled with the early acts and movies was J. W. Starling, one of the owners, singing the latest song hits. During the time the theatre was managed by Archie Tyndall, programs were mostly movies, with some professional vaudeville acts. A few local talent amateur shows were also a feature. At 3:45 A.M. July 25, 1915 the Orpheus Theatre was gutted by fire. According to the *Herald* of that date, manager A. Y. Tyndall estimated the damage at about two thousand dollars, with one thousand dollars covered by insurance. Manager J. V. Houston agreed to show the remaining episodes of the serial, "The Million Dollar Mystery" at the Star Theatre in order to give the Orpheus patrons a chance to complete their favorite serial.

The Evening Herald Oct. 16, 1916: "C. R. Miller of the Miller Photo Co., who recently took pictures in Klamath County and now being exhibited at the San Francisco fair, has leased the Orpheus Theatre, now being rebuilt." Approximately six weeks later the theatre opened under Mr. Miller's management. Mutual Movies had been contracted for, in which Art Acord, well known here at the time, was starred. Acord had performed here as a rodeo rider in Klamath Falls' first rodeo sponsored by the Elks in the spring of 1912. Mr. Miller had arranged for a musical program for his opening night to be performed by Miss Charlotte Satterlee, violinist, and Miss Maude Newburry.

After the fire the Orpheus was to undergo a hectic history of closures and changes of management. Mr. Miller operated the business for about two years. Clay H. Powers of Sisson (later Mt. Shasta), California leased the theatre on Nov. 17, 1917, according to *The Herald* of that date. The Orpheus remained open under Mr. Powers until just prior to the influenza epidemic of 1918 when all theatres were ordered closed.

The Evening Herald Oct. 12, 1918: "All Public Places Closed For Week Here. Effective at 6:00 o'clock tonight and for a period of one week, all theatres, dance halls, and other public places of amusement throughout the county are closed by the order of health officer Dr. Warren Hunt, issued today." This outbreak of Spanish influenza of 1918 and ensuing closures lasted not one week, but for two and one-half months. The Orpheus remained dark this time for the next two years.

At this point in the story of the entertainment business in Klamah Falls, it will be in order to state here that we will carry on the continuity of this history not by the individual theatre but by the dates of openings, the high points during the existence of each, and the closings, in their correct order in history. In this way, unless otherwise stated, the reader may assume that at any given time in the story, all theatres not reported closed were still in business. Therefor in 1918 up to the time of the quarantine there were four theatres in town, the Houston theatres, namely, the Opera House, Temple, and Star. The Orpheus rounded out the four. The Opera House by this time was still in wide use by the community, and Mr Houston was booking certain films at intervals but the house remained dark much of the time when its auditorium was not in use for public functions. Some traveling stage shows still played here.

Theatre ads in *The Evening Herald* on Dec. 26, 1918 indicated that places of amusement were open again, signalling the end of the long quarantine. Something new had been added. At 618 Main St. there appeared a new theatre that had been established by Harry W. and Rose M. Poole. Mr. Poole, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, arrived in Klamath Falls on Dec. 23, 1910. Mrs. Rose Torrey, also arriving in Klamath Falls in 1910, had come from Sagniaw, Michigan. She had been schooled there and later married to Neil B. Torrey. Her maiden name was Rose Morey. Accompanying her west was her daughter, Ellenor. A son, Roger Torrey, arrived later. Mrs. Torrey filed and

The "New" Vox, located at 618 Main Street. Structure originally opened as H. W. Poole's Liberty Theatre, in 1918.
—Photo courtesy James Floyd.

proved up on a homestead on Upper Klamath Lake. She first entered business circles in Klamath Falls as office manager for the Klamath Development Co. In 1918 she married her second husband, Harry W. Poole, in the same year their first theatre, the Liberty, was opened. This was the beginning of a career in show business under the Poole banner that was to continue for almost thirty years.

The Evening Herald carried the story that on Jan. 1, 1920 the Orpheus Theatre was opened after a closure of some time, by J. R. Monroe and R. E. Dale. A $5.00 prize was offered for an appropriate name to replace the one it had carried since it opened new in 1914. The name "Mondale" was selected, a combination of the names of the two owners, Monroe and Dale. Special guests present, all of whom had submitted the winning name, were: Orem Ray, T. A. Robertson, Mrs. E. J. Murray, Mrs. John Yaden, Ed Probst, and John Revenue. Over 263 names were submitted. *The Evening Herald* Jan. 14, 1920: "Vernon Keesee will occupy the position of business manager at the Mondale." During the early part of 1920 R. E. Dale sold his half-interest to a Mr. Patrick, the partnership then becoming Monroe and Patrick.

In the spring of 1920 John V. Houston sold his Star Theatre to his long-time projectionist, Lester Terwilliger, and a partner. With this transaction, the closing of the Temple Theatre, and the destruction of the Opera House by the tragic Labor Day fire of Sept. 6, 1920, which consumed the Houston Hotel across the street, Mr. Houston closed out a colorful career in show business in Klamath Falls, one that had covered some 23 years.

Another name change for the Orpheus was to come on July 1, 1921. Under the same ownership, the new title over the ad in *The Evening Herald* of that date was the "Strand". Mr. Ted White was also listed as manager as of that date. Mr. White was well known here during the twenties. Advertisement *The Evening Herald* Oct. 21, 1921: "Strand Theatre. J. M. Kerrigan in 'A White Man's Chance'. Country Store Tonight. 4 chickens, 10 lb. can Calumet Baking Powder, 1 can Silver Thistle Syrup, 2 lbs. Sweet Shop Chocolates, 4 bunches Home Grown Celery, 5 lbs. Cheese, 2½ lbs. Wellman's Coffee."

In November of 1921 the foundation was laid for what was to become a proud landmark on Main St. Many would come to refer to it as their "community playhouse" as its stage would be used for many community functions in addition to its primary purpose. *The Evening Herald* Oct. 30, 1922: "New Pine Tree Theatre Built In Six Months. Klamath's Newest Structure Represents Cost Of About $100,000. Starting last April on a foundation laid in 1921, the Hart block, owned by the Hart Bros. of Sacramento, gave steady employment to from 20 to 25 men during the various stages of its construction until its completion last month. The new structure on the southwest corner of 7th and Main Sts. is really two separate buildings, one occupied by the magnificent new Pine Tree, the other by stores

Pine Tree theatre, 706 Main Street, built and opened by Hart Brothers, of Sacramento, California. —Photo courtesy James Floyd.

and offices. The architects for the building was the firs of Coates and Travers of Fresno, Calif. The general contract was in charge of Parker and Banfield of Portland and the construction was supervised on their behalf by E. R. Goldap. Supervision and inspection for the architects and owners jointly was given by Howard R Perrin of this city. The building that houses the theatre fronts 40 feet on Main St. with a height of three stories in front and five stories for the space enclosing the stage loft in the rear. The stage loft is five stories high, giving an opportunity for the loftiest drapes and scenery. The floor space for the stage and wings is 40 feet by 21 feet."

The Pine Tree Theatre, 706 Main St., opened its doors on Oct. 31, 1922. The lead story in *The Evening Herald* of that date said: "First Performance To Be Staged Tonight. The opening represents months of labor and an expenditure of $165,000. The official family of the new theatre enterprise are: Romeo S. Hughes, district attorney of Sacramento County, president; Hugh B. Bradford, a member of the firm of Hughes, Bradford, and Cross, Attorneys, vice president; W. S. Hart, president of Hart Lunch, Inc., proprietors of a prosperous chain of California and Nevada restaurants, and a member of the firm of Hart Bros., owners of the property at 7th and Main, is secretary. The directors of the new concern are: Sam W. Cross, Sacramento attorney; H. H. Hart, secretary of Hart Lunch, Inc., director of purchase and installation of equipment; Max Weiss, former proprietor of the Klamath Army Store, who will be the manager of the theatre. W. S. Hart, R. S. Hughes, and Hugh Bradford complete the board of directors There are a number of stockholders, including Lester Terwilliger, former propri-

First nighters at the grand opening of the Pine Tree theatre, October 31, 1922.
—Courtesy Mrs. Paul Robertson.

etor of the Star Theatre, Klamath Falls, which has been absorbed by the new Pine Tree company, and Walter C. Van Emon, Klamath Falls attorney. Mr. Terwilliger will be in charge of the projection room." *The Herald* continued: "The interior of the theatre is held a triumph. Ivory, blue, and gold predominate. Interior artist for the structure was R. B. Roberts. Patrons will be struck by the artistry Mr. Roberts executed even in the finished product on the advertising curtain, which, when raised, exposes a beautiful traveling drape, framed by the procenium, a massive frame of gold. The latest and most modern organ is installed. The organ, a Smith-Seeburg, was designed and built by Frederick W. Smith, and installed by G. H. Weatherby of San Francisco. The installed price of this instrument was $25,000. The opening program tonight will include an organ solo, singing, and two excellent pictures, featuring the favorites, Norma Talmage in 'Smilin' Through', and Buster Keaton in 'The Frozen North'. Prices for the opening are: Lower floor 35c, balcony 35c, loge seats 50c. Show time is 7:45."

The foregoing account dates the end of the Star Theatre, and the finale of all show business at that address at 525 Main St. The closing of the Star, and the opening of the new Pine Tree made three theatres operating in Klamath Falls in 1922, each under a different owner, the Strand Theatre under the management of Ted White, H. W. Poole's Liberty Theatre, and the Pine Tree. One of the first major attractions at the new Pine Tree Theatre was on New Year's Eve Dec. 31, 1922 and New Year's Day Jan. 1, 1923. The ad in *The Herald* read: 'The Oliver Mirosco Co. presents 'Abie's Irish Rose' with the same cast and production that opened the Century Theatre in San Francisco." A price advance was in evidence for a major attraction such as this. Balcony seats were $1.50, lower floor $2.00, and loges $2.75.

Howard Perrin was manager of the Pine Tree Theatre for a time during 1923. At the time he was in charge, he hired as projectionist S. A. (Ted) Snyder of Woodburn, Oregon. Ted's name will be heard many times during this Klamath Falls theatre his-

tory, as he was part of it for the next 19 years.

The Strand Theatre, 1130Main St., closed its doors in February of 1923. In 1924 was to come two transactions in theatre circles. During the early spring of that year the Pine Tree lease and fixtures were purchased from the Hart Bros. by George M. Mann Theatres, Inc. of San Francisco. The first manager for Mr. Mann at the Pine Tree was Jimmie Chase, a former star of the Orpheum vaudeville circuit. In the other theatre purchase that year Klamath Falls was to hear still another name change for the little theatre that originally opened as the Orpheus. It had been the Mondale and the Strand. *The Evening Herald* June 24, 1924: "Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Seabrean, who have conducted motion picture theatres at Medford and Central Point, recently took over the old Strand Theatre which has been closed for some time. The theatre has been renamed the 'White Pelican' and is modern in every respect, including the installation of two Powers 6B projection machines." The last ad to appear in the *Herald* for the White Pelican was on March 26, 1925, indicating that it had a life span of about eight months, and only for that length of time operated by the Seabreans.

The following month the Pine Tree Theatre was to acquire its third owner in less than three years from the time it was built. *The Evening Herald* April 14, 1925: "Pine Tree Is Bought By Poole. Affiliation of the Liberty Theatre and assuming of active management and control of the Pine Tree by H. W.. Poole was announced last night following a business conference in San Francisco. The transfer of management and control of the Pine Tree goes into effect tomorrow night. Mr. Poole will take charge Thursday morning. No figures concerning the transfer were announced either by Mr. Poole or Frank Cassidy, representative for the George Mann Theatres, Inc. which owned the Pine Tree Theatre. It is understood that the George Mann Co. will retain an interest in the theatre until their lease on the property expires in the near future. Harry Poole, pioneer theatre man of this county, is now in control of three motion picture theatres, the Pine Tree, the Liberty, and the Chiloquin Theatre in Chiloquin." (Mr. Poole had constructed the Chiloquin Theatre almost five years before. It was opened on October 1, 1920. Mr. Poole's stepson, Roger Torrey, was manager of this venture for a time.) The newspaper account continues: "Beyond the retirement of B. F. (Bud) Moe as manager of the theatre, no change will be effected at the Pine Tree, Mr. Poole said. The Pine Tree Theatre was purchased from the Hart Bros. syndicate by the George Mann interests a year ago." It may be stated here that when Mr. Poole took over the Pine Tree, he began to use it for what it was intended. Good music was important to Mr. Poole. He moved Harry Borel and the orchestra over from the Liberty where he had been for some time. With a good orchestra in the pit, he booked more vaudeville in conjunction with motion pictures, making use of the theatre's fine stage facilities. The building was still owned by the Hart Bros. at the time Mr. Poole assumed control of the theatre. It was sold by the Hart interests to financier Fred C. Stahl of Sacramento shortly thereafter. On November 30, 1926, H. W. Poole purchased the structure from Mr. Stahl, and at that time the former Hart block became known as the Poole Building, and up until the early forties a bronze plaque with this title was displayed on the corner of the structure at 7th and Main.

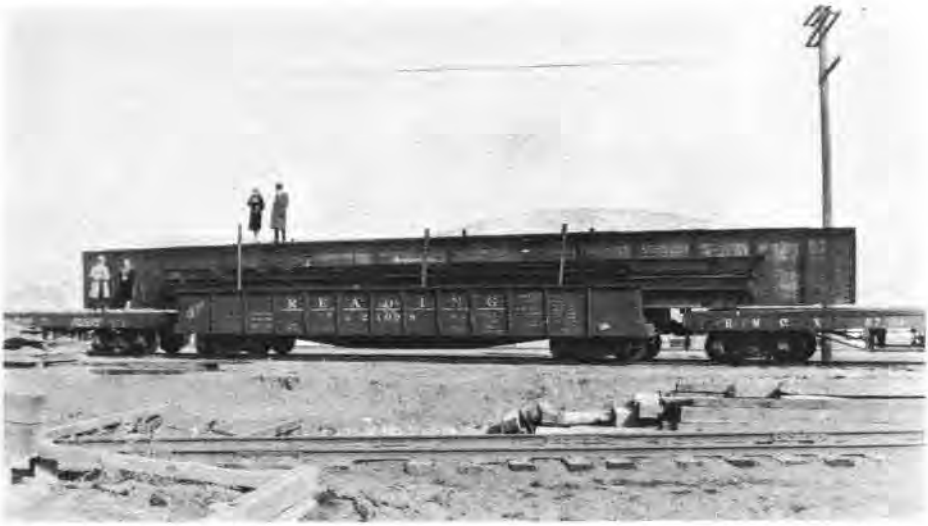
The Orpheus Theatre was to get another chance at survival in 1926. It was purchased by Granville McPherson who restored its original name back to "Orpheus". Mr. McPherson was quite a man for ideas. According to information received for this history from Mr. Clyde Richards, a projectionist at that time in this area, Mr. McPherson, in the summer of about 1925, had a platform built on the 200 block on Main St. on which he placed projectors and ran open air movies on a screen across the street. This was the summer before he opened the Orpheus.

"Piccadilly" was the name of something Klamath Falls almost had in 1927. *The Evening Herald* of June 7 of that year stated: "New Theatre To Arise In City. $200,000 structure will be constructed on Main St. near Esplanade. Permit for the building was granted to H. R. Perrin, supervising architect, by the city council last night. What arrangements have been made to finance the structure have not been made public. Granville McPherson, proprietor of the Orpheus Theatre, will be the manager of the new showhouse. The name of the theatre will be the "Piccadilly" in keeping with the English theme in the architectural design. Actual cost of the building will be $100,000. Total investment including property and furnishings will be approximately $200,000. The theatre, which will be suggestive of an old English tavern, will seat 1000. It is planned to have the formal opening of the building on or before November 1." There were no further developments on this venture. The foundation for the new Pelican Theatre had already been laid in 1926 by H. W. Poole and W. D. Miller and construction was under way.

The apex of Harry Poole's career in show business came in 1929 when it became apparent that his dream theatre, the Pelican, would become a reality. This masterpiece, designed by the architectural firm of Reid Bros. of San Francisco, was to rise on the corner of South 8th and Klamath Ave. The various stages of construction were carried on for over 2½ years and represented an expenditure of almost one-half a million dollars. Highlights from the Pelican Theatre special editions of both the *Klamath News* and *Evening Herald* of Jan. 16, 1929 tell us many things about the immensity and beauty of the building and of the grand opening. One could dwell for hundreds of words on this subject but space will not permit, so we will tell the story as best we can within our limits.

Harry W. Poole was controlling stockholder in the Pelican Theatre Corporation and was its president. Vice president and general contractor was W. D. Miller, who was a partner and who had a large personal investment in the company. Secretary-treasurer was Miss Vera Thompson. Miss Thompson had at that time been with H. W. Poole Theatres for 10 years, starting as an usher at the Liberty Theatre. She was in her new capacity to do much of the policy making at the new Pelican.

The Pelican Theatre building, containing also store buildings, upstairs office spaces, and a hotel for performers, was one of three "Class A" buildings in the state of Oregon in 1929. Another of these was in Klamath Falls, the Williams Building, at 722 Main St., erected by D. O. Williams and designed by Jamison Parker. The Pelican Theatre building had a frontage of 173 feet on Klamath Ave., and 112 feet on 8th St. It was 57 feet high with the stage structure rising to 88 feet. Earthquake proof, it contained 300 tons of steel beams. One beam, supporting the balcony, weighed 23 tons, requiring three flat cars to ship it to Klamath Falls from the east. 15,000 sacks of cement were used to produce the reinforced walls and floors of the structure. Standing forth as the largest playhouse in the nation serving a city the size of Klamath Falls, it was of Spanish exterior design, with early French used in the interior decor. The sculptural work was under the direction of Italian sculptor Henry Gregoire of San Francisco. The stage, with a procenium opening of 45 by 30 feet, had a depth of 44 feet with a width including the wings of 56 feet. The stage contained at opening time 14 drapes. The stage facilities utilized 11,540 feet of cable and hemp line, over two miles. Seating capacity of the theatre was 1590. The organ was a Wurlitzer Hope Jones Orchestral Unit. The first organist was Mr. Rex Stratton, noted organist of Portland and Marshfield. Another of a number of organists to follow was a member of a well known Klamath basin family, Miss Marie Obenchain. The Pelican Theatre orchestra was the Harry Borel group, being moved over from the Pine Tree. Besides Mr. Borel on violin, other orchestra members were: Myrtle Thorne, piano; L. L. Stein, bass; Gus



Arrival in Klamath Falls of the 23 ton balcony support beam for the Pelican theatre. Shipped on three flat cars from the East during the winter of 1928. Vera Thompson Powell and H. W. Poole standing on top of the beam.

—Photo courtesy James Floyd.

Lotge, cellist; Joe Sellenberger, drums; Redford Tester, trumpet; Roy Wells, clarinet; Leland Charley, trombone.

There were several people on Mr. Poole's staff over the years whom he felt made a great contribution in achieving his ambition in opening this great new theatre. One of these was James (Jimmie) Henson, who held the positions at various times of publicity man, stage manager, and house manager. He would be in complete charge of the stage as well as one of Mr. Poole's chief assistants in the new Pelican. Other members of the staff were: Joan Thompson, cashier; Glenn Wright, house manager; Keith Cramer, electrician; S. A. (Ted) Snyder, chief projectionist, moved over from the Pine Tree Theatre; ushers were: William H. Totten, Robert Marrison, Harold Kohn, Robert Huntley, William Listoe, Ray Sheard, James Jefferson, Ward Garrett, Neal Fife, and George May.

After the transfer of Ted Snyder to the Pelican Theatre, Clyde Richards remained at the Pine Tree Theatre. Other projectionists in Mr. Poole's employ at that time at his Pine Tree and Liberty Theatres included George Eckman and Robert Eldredge. Another projectionist of note and a long-time employee of the Pelican Theatre until his passing in the late 40's was Eugene M. (Pete) Prouty. Outside of the time Mr. Prouty spent in World War I, and treatment of wounds received there, he had worked at various theatres in Klamath Falls since his late boyhood.

For the grand opening of the new Pelican Theatre on January 17, 1929, the Orpheum Vaudeville Circuit broke into its schedule for the first time in forty years to bring a first class vaudeville show to Klamath Falls. The opening program at the Pelican consisted of the following presentation: Lewis and Charles Mosconi with Dorothy Van Aulst and Her Beautiful Talented Dancers; Helen Broderick and Company presented "The Sad Case Of Mary Dugan"; Roscoe Ates and Dorothy Dowling presented "Who Me?" Elsie and Paulson in a novelty offering, "Flashes Of The North." On the screen the first motion picture for the Pelican was Colleen Moore in "Synthetic Sin." Prices for the big show on opening night were: loges $5.00, orchestra section $5.00,

Pelican Theatre, at Eighth and Klamath, about 1930. Another outstanding landmark, lost forever to the citizens of Klamath County, through "progress."

—Photo courtesy James Floyd.

remainder of balcony $3.00. The calibre and cost of this presentation can be seen in the admission prices charged. A typical breakdown of admission prices in later Pelican ads would be: 500 seats at 25c, 900 seats at 35c, loges 40c.

The success of the Pelican Theatre opening can best be told by a portion of a lead story from *The Klamath News* of January 18, 1929: "A monument to the perserverance of Harry W. Poole, Poole's Pelican Theatre opened last night before a crowd which nearly filled the large and beautiful auditorium with a program that has not been equalled in this city. The first nighters were seated quickly by efficient boy ushers in well tailored uniforms. Many beautiful gowns and trim tuxedoes were in evidence as first nighters took their seats. Wilson S. Wiley, Klamath County District Attorney, gave the dedicatory address in a natural voice that could be heard from every seat in the house because of the fine accoustics. Following the fine stage and film presentation, and while the audience stood, Harry Borel and the Pelican Theatre orchestra played 'The Star Spangled Banner'. As the crowd filed out, the orchestra played the march, 'Capitol'."

Even though they were badly upstaged by the brand new Pelican, other showings in Poole's theatres on that night was Emil Jennings in "Street Of Sin" at the Pine Tree and at the Liberty the younger set was being thrilled by Buzz Barton in "Young Whirlwind". Klamath Falls now had four theatres once more, Mr. Poole's Pelican, Pine Tree, and Liberty, and McPherson's Orpheus, as of Jan. 18, 1929. The Junior Orpheum and Fanchon and Marco circuits were now under regular vaudeville contract with the Pelican and theatre goers of the Klamath basin had the best live song and dance talent there was in 1929 and the 1930's at their disposal. Sir Harry Lauder and Company, John McCormack, Enrico Caruso, Jr., and scores of other greats graced the stage of this wonderful showplace. Major orchestras to play there included Ted Fio Rito, Paul Whiteman, and many other great musical organizations of that era. The major stage production, "The Desert Song" company presented its entire repertoire as it did in larger cities because of the accommodation afforded by the adequate stage facilities. The road company of "Oklahoma" was the last great musical to use all the space that the stage could provide. The Klamath County Concert Association used the Pelican Theatre facilities for twenty-seven years. There was not an operetta or ballet of any size or carrying any number of persons that could not be accommodated in Klamath Falls during the existence of this large structure. These presentations could be budgeted by officers of the association as memberships could be sold in excess of 1500. There was usually one major attraction out of the four presentations each season.

The Evening Herald March 7, 1929: "Orpheus Theatre Sold To H. W. Poole. A fifth theatre was added to the Poole chain late yesterday with the sale to the Poole interests of the Orpheus Theatre on Main between 11th and 12th by Granville McPherson. Purchase price was not revealed. Mr. Poole will take possession March 13. The new owners plan to renovate the theatre in the near future." Having purchased the Orpheus, Mr. Poole was not to hear the last of Mr. McPherson, however. This theatre was kept open by H. W. Poole until October 21, 1929. The last picture to play the Orpheus before the final closure was "Prep And Pep" starring David Rollins and John Darrow. The existence of the Orpheus as a theatre was ended at this time, although the Poole organization retained the property for a time as competition security measure. The building was occupied later by the Olympia Grocery operated by pioneer grocer Gust Lampropulos. After many years in this location at 1130 Main St., Mr. Lampropulos moved the building and the business over to the Mills Addition at 2123 Holly St. With a modern brick front it no longer resembled a theatre building. In 1967 one could still buy practically any item of food from Gust at almost all hours. With the dis-

position of the Orpheus building taken care of, let us now return to 1929.

Sound! The magic word that was to create a new dimension to delight show patrons and spell the beginning of the end for big vaudeville, was here. The Pelican Theatre was the first to show a sound picture in Klamath Falls. Mr. Poole had his first sound equipment installed prior to Klamath Falls' first "Talkie," the motion picture, "Wings" on March 21, 1929.

The Evening Herald May 24, 1929: "Vox Theatre To Be Opened Today. The Vox Theatre, on Main St. across from the Willard Hotel will open today for the first time, showing George Jessel in 'Lucky Boy'. The picture is an all-talkie. 'The Best Sound In Town' is the motto of the new theatre which is opening under the management of Granville McPherson, former proprietor of the Orpheus. Every comfort for the patrons and the best of sound equipment has been installed in the strictly modern little theatre. Only talking pictures will be shown at the Vox." This theatre was located at 230 Main St. Mr. McPherson was back in business just six weeks to the day from the date of his sale of the Orpheus to H. W. Poole.

Sound came to the third theatre in town one week after the Vox opening when Mr. Poole re-opened the Pine Tree Theatre after a seven-day shutdown for the installation of a sound system and complete renovation and cleaning, according to the *Evening Herald* of June 1, 1929. The first program to introduce sound to the Pine Tree was "On Trial," starring Bert Litel, Lois Wilson, and Pauline Frederick. A comedy feature, "That Party In Person," starred Eddie Cantor.

Before leaving the eventful year of 1929, it will be well to make mention of several young people Mr. Poole had in his employ and gave recognition to in some of his advertising stories that year. The cashier at the Pine Tree had been Miss Joan Thompson, and as stated before had by now been moved over the new Pelican. At the Liberty was Miss Vernona McCauley. The usher personnel for the Liberty and Pine Tree included Evelyn Regnier, Alidene Harris,

The Rainbow theatre at 415 Main Street, about 1937, now the site of the Gold Bond Stamp store. —Photo courtesy James Floyd.

Edna McMahon, Ethel Slaughter, Genevieve Houston, Ruth Parent, Josie Rhodes, Betty McConnell, Helen Loe, Wanda Kirkendal, Edrie Finnel, Micky Moore, Margaret Carlson, Alysse Hector, Marguerite Erwin, Gertrude Von Berthelsdorf, and Neal Fife. Fife was also moved over to the Pelican for the opening. Playing the organ at the Pine Tree was Miss L. V. Von Berthelsdorf, with Myrtle Thorne doing relief. At the Liberty Miss Gertrude Teague operated the Sherman Clay photoplayer at the time with Mr. L. L. Stein of the Pelican Theatre orchestra doing relief.

The year 1930 began with four theatres in Klamath Falls. Harry Poole's Liberty was still in business, running silent pictures. With sound in his two top locations, Mr. Poole was reluctant to remodel it and install the necessary equipment to handle sound pictures. He did not renew his lease on the Liberty building in 1930 and closed it that year, after having started his career in show business there twelve years before.

The number of theatres under H. W Poole's management again returned to three just before Christmas in 1930 when a new joint venture was announced. *The Evening Herald* Dec. 23, 1930: "Theatre Opens This Evening Everything is in readiness for the opening of the beautiful Rainbow Theatre this evening The new theatre at 415 Main St between 4th and 5th Sts is owned by the Loomis Theatre Corp. of which Harry W. Poole is prominently identified, and who will direct its management. The personnel of the theatre will be: H. W. Poole, manager; James W. Henson, asst. manager; Stanley Richardson, chief projectionist; S. A Snyder, electrician; Dorothy La Prairie, cashier; Carol Terwilliger, asst. cashier and head usher; Svea Nyback, Lois Monroe, and Margaret Carlson, ushers; Glen owen, doorman; and Roy Wells, engineer. The opening attraction will be 'Queen High" starring Charlie Ruggles. Admission prices are: adults 15c and children 10c." The Rainbow was, of course, designed only for sound motion pictures while Poole's Pelican and Pine Tree were still presenting some vaudeville acts at intervals along with sound pictures.

To be sure, the Liberty Theatre was down, but not out. In the spring of 1931, J. T. (Jack) Heacox, owner of the Palace Barber Shop at the time, purchased the original operating rights and contracts of the Vox Theatre from Granville McPherson. Mr. Heacox had leased the Liberty building preparatory to moving the Vox to this more central location and great seating capacity. Mr. Mcpherson at this time was reported to have left Klamath Falls to purchase two small town theatres east of the Mount Shasta, California area. The "New Vox" theatre, as Jack Heacox chose to call it, opened in the old Liberty building at 618 Main St., on March 12, 1931. Completely renovated and remodeled under the supervision of Mr. Charles Coseboom, architect, it looked brand new inside, with walls of cream color Celotex in tile design. A new procenium designed in the shape of a picture frame was installed, along with a redesigned balcony and a new stairway located in the center of the front part of the building, according to excerpts from *The Herald* of March 12, 1931. New lighting fixtures set off the refurbished auditorium containing seating for 450 persons including the balcony which contained 147 chairs. R C.A. sound equipment had been installed. The news item further stated that the opening picture at Jack Heacox's New Vox Theatre would be "Caught Cheating" featuring George Sidney and Charley Murray. The staff, with the exception of one usher, was announced as: Art Fiddler, head projectionist; Carl Engel, assistant projectionist; Carol Uerlings, cashier; Esther Wunder, assistant cashier; Alyce Dickenson, head usher; and Ralph Weinburg, balcony usher. Mr. Heacox played top pictures at the New Vox, including the ace productions of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

The depression of the early thirties was by now being hard felt in business circles and the Pelican Theatre Corporation was no exception. Payments on the huge mortgage began falling behind. The Sept. 22, 1931

edition of the *Evening Herald* announced the foreclosure on The Pelican Theatre Corporation effective September 21, 1931 by the Western Savings And Loan Association. The Pine Tree Theatre was also affected in that action. Named as receiver and also director of the theatres involved was Mr. Peter Welch. Mr. Welch retained Miss Vera Thompson as secretary in her usual position of responsibility. The Pine Tree was released after a time, and on November 1, 1931, Mr. Welch appointed S. A. Snyder as temporary manager of the Pelican Theatre in addition to his duties as chief projectionist there. The theatre remained open under its regular policy supervised by the receivers until March 24, 1932, at which time it was closed. A deal was closed on March 28, 1932 under a new combine which included the late Morgan Walsh of San Francisco, among others, and the property was returned to H. W. Poole Theatres, Inc. on April 1, 1932. Offices of the company were moved back into the Pelican building. The theatre re-opened its doors on Wednesday evening, April 13, 1932.

Two theatrical transactions were to occur in the year 1935. The New Vox Theatre was added to the Poole organization; that is, it was re-acquired after having been closed as the Liberty in that location five years before. H. W. Poole Theatres now comprised four theatres, but competition was not long in coming. *The Evening Herald* July 24, 1935: "The opening of the Rex at 230 Main St. across from the Willard Hotel is scheduled for Thursday afternoon, according to Bob Helms and Louis Leib, owners of the new showhouse. The theatre has been redecorated for the opening, and new type high fidelity sound equipment has been installed. Helms has been in show business fourteen years in the bay area of California. Leib is well known in Klamath Falls. The Rex will specialize in two features daily, three changes per week 'Bank Nite' and 'Chinaware Days' will be featured. Comfortable seats have been installed as well as a new ventilating system. The first showing Thursday, July 25 will be Ken Maynard in 'Arizona Terror' plus Billie Dove in 'The Age For Love'. Prices are: adults 15c, children 10c." (The Rex occupied the building known as the first "Vox" originally opened in 1929 by Granville McPherson, as related earlier.)

Attractive fronts and colorful poster work were a trademark of Harry Poole during the thirties. James Floyd, artist and advertising manager for the Poole organization during that time, was responsible for the Pelican and the theatres along Main St. being turned into things of beauty when the outstanding pictures were played. Mr. Floyd also was called upon to manage theatres for a time in addition to his advertising duties prior to his resignation from the company to enter private business.

By 1937 business and employment in general seemed to be on the upturn, as attested to the by fact that Klamath Falls had five theatres running seven days per week, all with matinees every day. Ewauna Box Co. and other Klamath Falls mills were on a twenty-four hour schedule, with a change of crew every eight hours. Matinee movies were a popular source of diversion for those on the night shifts.

On Sept. 1, 1938, the Rex Theatre was purchased and placed under the management of the Poole chain. With this transaction, H. W. Poole Theatres, Inc. consisted of five theatres, all open, with four of these on Main St., running full time. The Rex Theatre was closed permanently on June 3, 1939.

Harry W. Poole passed away on the evening of June 7, 1939, ending a career of 21 years in show business, all in Klamath Falls. One story of his passing in *The Herald and News* of June 8, 1939 related that a well known dairy owner in Klamath Falls said that only a few of Mr. Poole's closest friends were aware that he was the silent benefactor who saw to it that milk was delivered to many needy families with small children during the dark days of the depression. An ardent sportsman, Mr. Poole was a past member of the Oregon State Game Commission. Mrs. Rose M. Poole now assumed

management of the theatre organization. She appointed S. A. Snyder her chief assistant and superintendent of operation. The firm name was changed thereafter to Klamath Theatres, Inc.

The Herald and News Nov. 29, 1940: "Completed in record time, the colorful new Esquire Theatre, Klamath Falls' towering new $150,000 motion picture palace, is scheduled to open tonight with a special inaugural program, playing to an estimated 3,000 invited guests. Regular film showings will begin Saturday noon, Nov. 30. Completion of the new theatre marks the halfway point of a two house building program announced early last summer. Construction of a second playhouse on South 6th St. is proceeding. Known as a stadium-type house, the Esquire Theatre is built to seat 1000, with burgundy and blue the predominating interior color scheme. Each side wall of the auditorium contains three beautiful murals depicting the winning of the west. Done in flourescent paint, they will be lighted by blacklight projectors concealed in the ceiling. Miguel Santocono, noted decorator in charge of decorating the new theatre, has worked on the murals for three months." The Esquire Theatre building was constructed to include commercial rental spaces on both Pine St. and 7th St. The outstanding feature of the tile and blue-glassed front of the theatre was a towering red and cream vertical sign atop the structure, looming ninety feet above the sidewalk. It became at the time the city's highest landmark.

The designer of the new Esquire Theatre and the forthcoming Tower Theatre was William B. David, theatre architect and also the then general manager of George M. Mann's Redwood Theatres, Inc., owners of the two new enterprises. General contractors for the construction of both buildings was Moore and Roberts. Northwest Theatres Co. was the local firm name for the two new theatres and the first manager here for the corporation was Mr. Al Fourmet, a twenty year veteran in the motion picture business. The opening program at the Esquire Theatre on Saturday, Nov. 30, 1940 was Gary Cooper in "The Westerner" with Walter Brennan, Doris Davenport, and Lillian Bond. The admission prices for the opening were: General admission, matinees 30c, loges 44c, children 10c; evenings, general admission 40c, loges 55c, children 10c.

Five months later the new theatre in the suburbs was in readiness, according to the story in *The Evening Herald* of April 24, 1941, which said: "The final brush of paint, the last section of tile, and the polishing of the blue glass windows marked the completion Thursday of the new $150,000 Tower Theatre at Washburn Way and South 6th St. which opens its doors Friday evening, April 25 at 6:00 P.M. This is Klamath Falls' first suburban theatre. The theatre is the most recent of a string owned and operated by George M. Mann of San Francisco and is part of the Northwest Theatres Co. of which Al Fourmet is manager. Assistant to Mr. Fourmet and manager of the Tower Theatre will be Mr. Leonard Payne, formerly of Eureka, California. The auditorium of the theatre is on a single floor and will seat 1200 patrons. The decorating was done under the supervision of R. A. Eckels, well known theatre decorator. The spacious foyer will boast a concession counter, referred to as a 'Kandy Bar' in modern theatre jargon, which will be stocked with candy, cigarettes, and soda water. Popcorn and ice cream will also be featured. Patrons attending the new Tower, one of the most streamlined buildings on the Pacific Coast, will have the privilege of parking on both ends of the building on adequate parking lots, free of charge. The opening program will be: Wallace Beery, Chester Morris, and Virginia Grey in 'Thunder Afloat'. Second on the bill will be William Boyd in 'Border Vigilantes'. Admission prices for the Tower will be: Adults 25c, children 10c, any time."

Theatre patrons of Klamath Falls now had a choice of motion picture entertainment equal to any city in the country, with six theatres, three first run, and three second run, all open seven days a week. Mrs. Rose Poole had by then remodeled and in-

stalled new fronts on the Pelican and Pine Tree Theatres, and a new front on the Rainbow Theatre. Downtown Klamath Falls was bright when all the neon on these theatres was ablaze and people were on the streets going to and from their favorite movies. During the jitters of the second world war this type of entertainment played an important role in the lives of those at home.

The Vox Theatre dropped to weekend showing s only in July of 1941. With the showing of "The Buccaneer" and "Outlaw Of Cherokee Trail" on July 3rd and 4th of 1942, the Vox closed its doors, marking the end of the theatre which Harry W. Poole opened as the Liberty and began his career in show business twenty-four years before, there at 618 Main St.

Sept. 1, 1942 marked the date of a merger between Northwest Theatres Co. operated by George M. Mann, and Klamath Theatres, Inc. managed by Mrs. Rose M. Poole. Active management for this joint venture was assumed by the George Mann interests and Mr. Earl Baughman, Klamath Falls manager for Mr. Mann, was named district manager for all theatres in Klamath Falls. Klamath Theatres, Inc. was the title assumed by the new concern. Mrs. Rose Poole retired from active management at this time. She entered political circles later in the forties and became state representative from Klamath County. With the late Henry Semon she was active in obtaining for Klamath Falls the Oregon Vocational School at the vacated Marine Recuperation Barracks which was later to become Oregon Technical Institute. The Pelican, Pine Tree, and Rainbow theatres were subsequently purchased by George M. Mann, the local firm name remaining the same.

Early in 1947 the Rainbow Theatre, 415 Main St., fell victim to closure, its business as a second run theatre being drawn to newer and more adequate facilities.

The lease on the Pine Tree Theatre building was relinquished by Klamath Theatres, Inc. on August 6, 1949, at which time all seating and equipment were removed, ending a tenure of twenty-seven years of uninterrupted service to the community as a theatre and playhouse which in years past included public functions, silent and sound pictures, and many fine vaudeville presentations. The Pine Tree was presented with another chance at survival in 1950 when it was renovated, re-equipped, and opened by Al and Rex Adolph, the active management being handled by Mr. Al Adolph. Mr. Adolph had long experience in the distribution end of motion pictures. Brother Rex was in business in Salem, Oregon and was a silent partner in the Pine Tree venture. Their presentations were western and action pictures for the most part. Vaudeville acts were brought back again as they had been in that house 25 years before, but were only casually received. The Adolphs were able to survive under the stiff competition for somewhat less than two years, and the building was used as a theatre for the last time on the evening of February 5, 1952.

A new concept in motion picture entertainment was sweeping the nation in the late 1940's and 1950. Klamath Falls, Oregon was no exception. On June 23, 1950 George M. Mann's Klamath Theatres, Inc. opened Klamath Falls' first drive-in theatre, the Shasta, on Winter Avenue in the suburbs of the city. The popularity of this type of entertainment with people with families was soon apparent. They could find their favorite place in the open air theatre by merely observing the ramplight with their row number and in moments they were seated in the comfort of their own automobile without the aid of anyone. The opening performance at the then brand new facility was Audie Murphy in "The Kid From Texas". Appointed as first manager at the Shasta Drive-In was Paul W. Duffy. The projectionist-engineer was Charles M. (Merrill) Larson.

A subject of mixed emotions and outright dismay to many of the people of Klamath Falls was the closing in 1958 and the eventual demolition of the huge Pelican Theatre during the winter of 1960 and 1961. Show business had undergone many

changes over the years and a building of this magnitude could no longer be supported profitably by the owners. Nevertheless with its loss went an auditorium and stage facility which will be felt by the community for many years to come. The property at 8th and Klamath Ave. was retained by the theatre company. It was filled, surfaced and paved, having been leased as a parking lot.

During the next five years two pioneer theatre personalities were to pass on. In the summer of 1963 Mrs. Rose M. Poole died at the home of her daughter Ellenor. Three years later in 1966, George M. Mann passed away in San Francisco, California.

The Klamath Falls centennial year of 1967 found three theatres, the Esquire, Tower, and Shasta Drive-In Theatre sharing the motion picture needs of the community. As this was written, all theatres in Klamath Falls, or Klamath Theatres, Inc., were owned by the original George Mann chain, under the corporation name of Theatre Management, Inc. with home offices in San Francisco, California. Succeeding his father as president of the corporation was Mr. Richard Mann. The younger Mr. Mann had trained since boyhood for the responsible position he was to fill. Vice president of the corporation and general manager of theatre operations was Mr. Earl Baughman, a former manager in Klamath Falls, as related earlier.

So in the year 1967 Klamath Falls, Oregon had experienced a colorful era of seven decades in which a parade of seventeen showplaces under twenty-two various titles had provided entertainment and relaxation for Klamath basin residents, entertainment unsurpassed by any town the size of Klamath Falls on the Pacific Coast.

* * * *

Although our story had been filed, we must now add a paragraph to the memory of Mrs. Vera Thompson Powell. As Miss Vera Thompson, she left the employ of H. W Poole Theatres in 1936 and continued on in show business for the next twelve years in the San Francisco offices of the late Morgan Walsh and George M. Mann interests. In 1948 she ended her long career in show business and returned to Klamath Falls, where she was married to the late Dewey Powell. Mrs. Vera Thompson Powell passed away in Klamath Falls, Oregon, on January 2, 1967.

The Klamath Falls Armory at the corner of Spring and Main, scene of many Baldy Evans productions. —Photo courtesy James Floyd.

Baldy Evans . . .

Top State Dance Promoter

by Malcolm Epley Jr.

(Reprinted from the Herald & News of Friday, November 28, 1952.)

The science of drawing a crowd is an old one to William R. Evans, better known as Baldy to most folks in this neck of the woods.

Baldy has drawn over 100,000 paid admissions to his name band promotions in Klamath Falls and vicinity during the past 12 years. He works under the old theory of free enterprise: the more admissions he can draw, the better his own financial gain.

Baldy makes his living entirely by his promotions and his band, and it's the Klamath band habit that is keeping him in business.

Name bands by the dozens simply love Klamath Falls as a stopover. It means good crowds and good financial returns, and a worthwhile trip through this area sometimes becomes acceptable only because Klamath Falls is on the list.

Evans got his start promoting big name bands back in 1927 in his home town of Roseburg. He brought in Rudy Widoff, who a little later played in Klamath Falls and was killed in an auto crash on the Greensprings. Now 49, Baldy came to Klamath Falls a year later, and in 1929 organized his own band which has been playing continuously for almost a quarter of a century in these parts.

At that time Evans was working at a mechanic's bench at Balsiger Motor Co., playing piano and leading his band during his spare time. (He learned to play by ear, and has yet to take a piano lesson. He started off with a banjo.)

Starting in the early 1930's, Baldy promoted several bands which used to crowd the old Altamont Ballroom.

But in 1940, when he began putting his dances in the Armory, big things began happening to dance music and dancing in the Klamath country.

"The best bet," he recalls, "we found early, was top cards. In 1940 I brought in Duke Ellington and his band—and that was the first band I ever made any money with."

After that came Paul Whiteman, and from there on, Baldy had things pretty much his own way musically around these parts. When World War II began and the Marine Barracks and Naval Air Station were located here, servicemen added to the already growing crowds.

That made it possible to bring in a string of top name bands that makes the Klamath Armory sound like a combination of the Garden Room, Copacabana, and Coconut Grove.

Jack Teagarden, Jimmy Lunceford (who died at Seaside shortly after his appearance here), Earl (Father) Hines, Charlie Barnett, Jan Garber, Jan Savitt, Ted Fio Rito, Frankie Masters, Henry King, Gene Krupa, Buddy Rich, Sterling Young, and others.

Then came a new quirk in dancing habit here.

In 1945 Baldy brought in the first Western band in the top name bracket.

It was a smash hit, breaking (and still holding) all existing records.

Bob Wills attracted, in one night, 2,719 paid admissions to the Armory and started off a chain reaction which still today packs the building when Western bands make appearances here. Next Saturday (Dec. 6) Tex Ritter and his boys are expected to keep right on with the trend and pack e'm in once again.

"It's an amazing fact," Baldy says, "that Western bands are consistently the top attractions to dance crowds, not only here but throughout the nation."

Among those he's brought in, some of them as many as six and eight times, are Tennessee Ernie, Lefty Frizell, Bob Wills (eighth time, averaging 1,700 paid admis-

sions), Merle Travis, Tommy Duncan, Maddox Brothers and Rose, Hank Thompson, Wesley Tuttle, Spade Cooley, Tex Williams, Sons of the Pioneers and Hank Snow. Snow, incidentally, made his first appearance in the United States here and since has been a hit as a recording artist in the U.S. Baldy billed him at the Merrill community hall, where he sometimes puts up good bands.

The Klamath area, Baldy says, has a reputation in "bandland" which is the envy of promoters anywhere. It outdraws practically every other town in the state, and Baldy is willing to bet it's probably tops in the nation in proportion to its population.

"For instance," Baldy says, "Jimmy Dorsey played in Portland on a Friday evening and drew 850 paid admissions. The following Tuesday—at midweek—he played here and drew 1050.

"Tex Williams drew 2550 at Jantzen Beach, and turned right around to draw 1,500 here."

Ray Anthony and Ralph Flannagan both outdrew Oakland here, and they both "just love this place."

Baldy figures his overall average paid admissions to all the dances he's promoted here since 1940 comes to something like 1,100 per dance. He says it takes from 900-1,000 paid tickets to "make the nut"—meet the bills. Multiply that out by some 100 name bands he's promoted here and you can see he's really in the business.

Baldy still plays music with his own band when times are right. He organized it with Sync Halaas back in 1929 in the old Scandia Hall, now the Eagles Lodge. But his heart still goes on promoting.

The best bands he books these days are Westerns like Maddox Brothers and Rose, Lefty Frizell and Hank Thompson. In the past he tried promoting in Medford and Roseburg on "tours" including Klamath Falls. He suffered sad experiences, breaking even or coming close only because of the crowds of Klamath folks who came out here.

Since the war Evans has brought in Les Brown, Harry James, Lawrence Welk (his favorite for dancing), Anthony, Flannagan, Tony Pastor, Claude Thornhill, Red Nichols, Woody Herman, King Cole Trio, Lionel Hampton, Carmen Cavallero, Ray Herbeck, Leighton Noble and others.

Baldy, a jovial fellow known by probably more people than any one around here, was always a runt until he got into the show business. When he graduated from high school in Roseburg he weighed 110 pounds. That runtiness was one reason he got his nick-name. He was in the fourth grade, he says, when one of the holdovers (they sometimes kept pupils in one grade for three or four years in those days) caught him at recess. The bully downed him and clipped every last wisp of hair from his head.

He's been "Baldy" every since.

BY ORDER OF RECEIVER
$25,000 WORTH OF DRY GOODS, SHOES,
LADIES SUITS, GENTS FURNISHING GOODS ETC.
THROWN ON THE MERCY OF THE PUBLIC
SALE COMMENCES SATURDAY SEPT 4TH 9 A.M.
SEE WINDOWS
SEE WINDOWS

Start of Receiver sale of the Brick Store, Sept. 4, 1909. Center building with plain canopy, the old Klamath County Bank building, next the first Baldwin Hardware stone building, here occupied by Geo. Chastain Grocery. —Maude Baldwin collection.

The Banks of Klamath County . . .

by J. W. Siemens

(Reprinted from The Morning Express Booster Issue, Klamath Falls, Oregon, December, 1909.)

In early days, before there were any banks in Klamath county, the farmers and stockmen, after selling their produce, cattle and horses, would deposit their checks with the merchants of Klamath Falls, notably Reames, Martin & Co., and George T. Baldwin, pioneer merchants here, and as they needed money would draw on their deposits. Hundreds of thousands of dollars were thus handled by these firms. Taxes were principally paid in checks, and the County Treasurer did quite a business in exchange. Anyone wishing to send money to San Francisco or Portland or the East would call and pick out such checks as would be suitable for his purpose in amount and locality of bank drawn on. These checks came principally from Gerber Bros., J. C. Mitchell and Swanson and other cattle buyers, and some of them were held by stockmen six months and a year, or even longer, before being put in circulation and payment by the bank on which they were drawn.

A remarkable fact is that none of these checks were ever found to have been forged or altered, when you take into consideration that it could have been done easily and successfully.

In relating his experiences to me in that line a prominent merchant made the statement that at one time he got hold of a $50 check and in due course of business received and paid out this check eight times before it finally found its way to the bank on which it was drawn, completely covered by endorsements.

The first bank to be established in Klamath county was the Klamath County Bank. In the year 1900 this institution had deposits amounting to $114,700. The First National Bank was organized in 1903 and was Klamath's second bank and in October of that year had $30,000 deposits. The American Bank and Trust company was the third and the First Trust and Savings Bank, organized in 1907, was the fourth bank in Klamath Falls. The Merrill branch of the Klamath County Bank at Merrill and the Bank of Bonanza, at Bonanza, make a total of six banks for the county.

At the last statement made by these banks November 16th, 1909, we find that they had deposits as follows:

Klamath County Bank	$358,843
First National Bank	97,756
First Trust & Savings Bank	82,546
American Bank & Trust Co.	78,473
Merrill Bank	73,684
Bank of Bonanza	39,953
Total	$731,260

Their loans amount to $449,089, showing a strong reserve on hand outside of banking rooms and fixtures owned. This shows an increase of deposits of about $70,000 a year since 1900—a very respectable amount when you take into consideration the sparce population and isolated condition existing in Klamath county up to a recent date.

The quarters occupied by our banks and their equipment compare favorably with banks in older and more populated communities. Their solidity is unquestioned, as shown two years ago when most cities issued certificates to tide them over, our banks paid in the coin of the realm exclusively, and the confidence shown them by the patrons of the banks was deeply appreciated by the bankers.

With the opening up of this section of country to the outside markets by the railroads, and as more land comes under cultivation and irrigation and swamp lands

As Told To Me . . .

by Mrs. Jennie Crandall, February 3, 1967

Recorded by R. E. "Dick" Teater

We arrived in Klamath Falls in 1910 and stayed the first night at the Baldwin Hotel annex upstairs. I can remember our first meal here as we walked for some distance to a little restaurant, the name I do not recall. What stands out in my mind about this little place was that with all the dust and bareness of the street and the surroundings, there was a little patch of grass no more than three feet square out in front of the place, the only grass we'd seen in town, and on it was a sign, "Keep Off The Grass".

We got into business right away in Klamath Falls. The McMillan Furniture Co. building on North 6th St., just off Main across the street from where the First National Bank is now, went up in 1909, and in 1910 by the time we came here they had just added a second story and made that into a 32-room upstairs rooming house. They had added this through a lease agreement with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Mang. Before it was furnished for opening, Mr. Mang had decided that they could not handle it, so we (the Crandalls) took it over on a sub-lease. We had to furnish it completely, all the way down to the window blinds. With the only $500 we had left, we made the down payment on the lease and were in business. The business was known as the Washington Rooming House. Our lease ran us $110 per month. Remember, this was for 32 rooms, besides our living quarters, office, and kitchen. I might add that he had two bathrooms for the thirty-two rooms. There were no housekeeping rooms. He had daily and weekly rates. Although $110 seems a small amount by today's standards, the construction cost of the upper floor was paid for in two years by the income from the lease. It might be of interest that this was the first business building in Klamath Falls with a central heating plant using steam. Wood was used for fuel.

I know the Iris Theatre was built into the first story in 1909 alongside the furniture store, the year before we came here. It was going when we took over the rooms upstairs.

Business went into a slump around town in 1913 and 1914, and we got rid of the rooming house at about that time. I was in business again in 1916 when Mrs. Lena Noel and myself ran a family style restaurant called "The Marshall House", named after the city of Marshall, Indiana. It was located in the Evans building next door to the Evans Grocery which was on the corner of 10th and Main. We could seat 100 people. In this restaurant we had the first mechanical dishwasher in Klamath Falls. In later years I worked for quite a long time at LaPointe's. I still have a charter of the Business and Professional Women's Club of which I was a charter member.

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drained, sawmills, box factories, ice plants and other various kinds of factories established here; when celery, asparagus and other products of this wonderful producing land will be shipped out by the trainload, the outlook appears very promising indeed for the banks as well as all other classes of business. When such time comes, their deposits will increase many fold to the advantage of themselves and the Klamath country at large.

Reminiscences . . .

by William A. Delzell

(Reprinted from a Klamath Falls newspaper clipping of unknown date, but probably sometime in 1931.—*Editor)*

Thought to be Tom Delzell on his pony "Billie." —Maude Baldwin collection.

The recent passing of Evan R. Reames, pioneer merchant and banker of Linkville, awakens a train of memories for old timers of Klamath county. I can scarcely lay claim to that title although it was on a June evening twenty-six years ago that I arrived at Klamath Falls, bringing my wife and three children from Oklahoma. I alighted from the dust-covered four-horse stage coach near the old Reames Brick Store and took my first view of the town that was to be my home for the next twenty years.

It was Saturday evening and the next Monday morning I began my work as cashier of the newly organized First National Bank which was then located in the old Baldwin—A.O.U.W. building. A few doors west in the same block was the Klamath County Bank located in the Brick Store. It was then an old established institution, originally a private bank operated by the owners of the store. Oregon's banking code had not yet been written. At that time the Klamath County Bank was under the ownership of Evan Reames, Alex Martin, Sr., and Charles Moore, former state treasurer. The First National was founded by G. W. White, who associated with him George P. Lindley of Medford (father of Geo. L.) and three prominent citizens of Klamath Falls, Charles E. Worden, Albert Walker of Bly, and Fred Melhase of Ft. Klamath. All these men are now dead. The passing of Evan Reames removes the last one of Klamath's pioneer bankers. Alex Martin, Jr., then cashier of the Klamath County Bank, is living in Portland. Leslie Rogers, my successor as cashier of the First National since 1912, is still on the job. Ernest Bubb, a clerk in the old Klamath County Bank, and Geo. L. Lindley, son of Geo. P., are your well-known bankers today. But the old men who founded the pioneer institutions, later to be merged in one, are all gone to a land 'where moth and rust doth not corrupt nor thieves break thru and steal.'

Picturesque indeed were two of these pioneer bankers. Evan Reames and 'Uncle Jerry' Martin, both products of early days in gold mining camps. Evan Reames grew up in the hey-days of old Jacksonville's gold excitement. Alex Martin, a powerful six-foot young Scotchman, was at first a blacksmith, shoeing the stage horses there—next manager of the overland stage line running from Sacramento north to Portland and handling the heavy gold shipments in the days when road agents were plentiful. In 1873 he was hauling army supplies over the mountains from Ashland to the soldiers in the Lava Beds. Oats for the mules cost

Uncle Sam $1.20 a pound delivered! A successful trader always, he became merchant, capitalist and banker—and a mighty good one too. He and Evan Reames were long associated in financial ventures. When I first met Evan Reames he was about sixty but loked younger than fifty and in all the years since he never seemed to grow any older. Alert, active, humorous, always cheery, he never lost touch with current events and adapted himself as readily to the age of autos and aero-planes as he was born to the days of pack trains and stage coaches.

No less picturesque was the village of Klamath Falls in 1905, for it was yet living in the days of stage coaches and big eight-horse freight outfits. Famous among those early teamsters were Bob Hunsaker, Joe Moore and Louis Bean. The Concord stages were driven by grizzled veterans of the Overland line whose names were familiar from Redding to Roseburg. To see one of those big eight-horse freight outfits with bells jingling—and guided by a single jerk-line—swing up, in front of the old Brick Store and turn around in that narrow street, was more thrilling than a circus to us tenderfoots. Across the street was the stage barn run by the Straw Brothers. Between it and the river stood the big rambling Lakeside Inn, at that time under the management of Mrs. McMillan (mother of Marie). It was a famous pioneer hostelry and many noted men shared its hospitality. Its old registers could reveal the names of men now nationally and some internationally known. James Garfield, son of the martyred president, E. H. Harriman and Louis Hill, Walt Whitman and Joaquin Miller, George Chamberlain and William Jennings Bryan and possibly Herbert Hoover, too, wrote their names on its register.

When at sundown the dust covered stages with foaming horses rolled up in front of the Lakeside Inn and the weary travellers alighted there was never lack of welcome. The hungry were fed and the thirsty relieved from a dozen or more saloons, running wide open seven days in the week in those easy times. Should the stage from Lakeview happen to bring over Dr. Bernard Daly, Vint Snelling, Frank Light or any others of its scores of good fellows the welcome took on the nature of a real 'home coming' jollification and has been known to last all night. That was a long hard two days' drive over the mountains from Lakeview. It was a big day's drive in from Bly, yet I recall that Albert Walker once made it in half a day with his fast team.

What fine old ranchers lived along that trail and in the wide valleys bordering it! All prosperous with immense herds of cattle and bands of horses and mules roaming a hundred hills, to be marketed each fall when Gerber's or Swanson's buyers came in to issue fat checks. Some of those bands were driven 150 miles or more to the railroad. The rancher's chief anxiety was that none of his cattle would be too fat for the drive for that was a real loss! Just to mention the names of a few of those old-timers quickens the pulse and brings a mist to the eyes! The Howards, Casebeers, Walkers, Campbells, Wilkersons, Kilgores, Langells, Hortons, Shooks, Merrills, Adams, Henly, Ankeny—but why try to name them all? And up at Wood River were Bill Nicholson and Dan Ryan, Pelton, Sisemore, Melhase Brothers, the Hoyts, Loosely's, Gordon's and many more, all with big ranches and fat cattle. In those old days every rancher in the county was so prosperous that our bank would have been glad to lend any of them all he wanted on his plain note and we had no fears of losing our money. In the first six years business of the First National, not a single dollar was lost from any cause. "Believe it or not" the old Klamath County Bank in its early days did not even take notes from its customers! Just gave them check books and let them draw as needed for a year and then settle up at the annual drive to market! There are some old men yet living around Klamath Falls who can tell you more about it. Times were certainly different under Teddy's Rough Riding than under Herbert's soft pedaling!

With every stage came new arrivals, for the U.S. Irrigation project was attracting national attention—and not of the kind so notorious in later years. Frank Ira White left off writing for a Denver paper and got busy laying out town lots in a big alfalfa field on the Mitchell ranch. He called it Mills Addition. Another war correspondent home from the Chinese Boxer rebellion hung out his shingle. It read: Chas. F. Stone, Attorney. E. B. Hall came in from Colorado to promote White Lake City. It is today a ghost city in the alkali sands west of Merrill. He had better success in making one of the best known hotels on the coast. Don Zumwalt brought along his transit and surveyed canals, roads and the situation generally. A stranger named Naftzger came and immediately began laying out Hot Springs Addition. The springs, by the way, were then chiefly used as a scalding vat for farmers butchering hogs there. The ground was covered with hog hair the first time I visited the springs. Another town site company laid out Buena Vista addition extending to the Upper Lake. A controversy over a street car franchise brought on the most spectacular race between freighters bringing rails over the mountains ever staged in the west. Buena Vista won. The line was built and for several years we had a single horse car running from Main street to the upper landing. Al Leavitt was its most faithful—and often only passenger! Over at the court house Silas Obenchain was sheriff and John Schallock, constable. Henry Benson was judge—later on the Supreme Court. Sam Summers was building a county road right out through the swamp past the notorious Green House to Altamont. It is busy Sixth street today. Captain Applegate, then as now, walked sprightly down the street with whiskers waving and cane on his arm. He had but recently retired as Indian agent. Capt. Frank Arant was in charge of Crater Lake Park, reached then by team over a torturous road. No one thought of taking less than a week to visit Crater Lake. Levi Willits, a former teacher at the sub-agency at Yainax had a general store where the Odd Fellows building now stands. The Masonic lodge was overhead. Willits later became president of the First National Bank. Rev. J. W. Bryant was driving a six-horse outfit hauling freight to the Brick Store and on Sundays delivering some splendid sermons prepared while his wagons jolted over the rocks of Topsy Grade. He was of the old school, not only worthy of his hire but paid the hire himself. Capt. J. P. Lee was proving up a homestead on the river below where now Weyerhaeuser mill stands. Aggie and Lou were girls at home then. They are known today as Mrs. Fred Schallock and Mrs. A. J. Voye. Schallock and Daggett had a grocery store on the corner of Sixth and Main which was afterwards owned by Dad Shive and son Oscar. Across the street was Hazens barn. G. W. White bought it and the west half of that block for $2500. Marion Hank's father owned the big ranch where now stands the Mortensen mills. Charlie Roberts was clerking for Baldwins daytimes and teaching Clarice White how to row a canoe evenings. Mrs. Roberts still knows how to row.

Martin Brothers had a grist mill up in the river canyon near where the Copco dam was later built. Goeller had a planing mill on Ewauna and Ackley's a saw mill. Captain Siemens gave me my first two-bit shave in his shop up at Second. Later we both shaved notes over the same bank counter. Among the more recent arrivals that summer was Charles Wood Eberlein, long associated with Harriman, but now lured to the pioneer town by the developments incident to irrigation and townsites. Charles held on through long years of adversity, never losing the original vision, and recent years rewarded his early judgment. Another arrival that summer was a young man from Pennsylvania bringing with him his fair bride. He was destined to play a big part in the history of Klamath Falls, larger than he knew when he formed partnership with W. O. Smith and started the *Evening Herald* on its way to future success. The story of that paper's trials and tribulations and

ultimate victories is a romance in itself. The morning paper then was *The Express*, published by J. Scott Taylor. He is probably the only small town editor who ever received a personal call from the great E. H. Harriman objecting to an editorial. J. Scott was not very big physically (neither was Harriman)—but he didn't apologize. An ambitious school teacher from Ohio came out west to be our city superintendent and wore the title for fourteen years. Even yet his old students get their insurance from 'Professor' Dunbar. Louie Jacobs opened a drygoods store that summer near where the Willard Hotel is situated. His little daughter, Waive, was busy wheeling a doll buggy around. A hopeful Hebrew opened up a few shelves of 'ready to wear' men's clothes up in the west end. He prospered and now everybody in the county knows Kay Sugarman and his famous slogan, 'I ain't mad at nobody'—a slogan by the way, that meant a lot back in the days of the court house rows. Fred Houston was dividing time between fishing on Link river and running Duffy's store. You know it today as the K. K. K. store. J. V. Houston had the town's 'opry house' with a sign on its cornice saying 1888. Barney Chambers blew in and opened a gun store—I still have the shotgun he sold me. A real city barber came from somewhere and began laying the lather that brought success and Lincoln cars to Jimmy Swansen. A colored Pullman porter from the main line of the S.P. appeared on the scene with $25 in his pocket—got a job janitoring the bank and twenty years later was paying a Federal income tax. Billy Timms is buried up on the hill. Peace to his ashes. Old Hop Sing with his pretty girl wife, Allie, did the town's laundering. Allie is gone too. How many recall Matilda Whittle, the old Indian woman who was a child at the Indian camp on Williamson river when Fremont and Kit Carson gave battle in '46?

Doctors Geo. Merryman and Floyd White, just out of medical college, bought the drug store of William Wright (Dr. George Wright's father), and began filling their own prescriptions at the corner where the Copco offices now are. A little later Chas. Currin came along to clerk for them. Dr. Masten was the town's surgeon and proved it by amputating his own leg with a pocket knife at night out in the sage brush where he had been mangled by a runaway team accident. Another jovial doctor came to take charge of the medical services for the construction company digging the canal. His stay among the Klamath folks so trained him that a little later he became Supt. of the Sate Hospital for Insane—and for over twenty years has held that political job against all comers and under all governors, democrat or republican, horse doctor or cowman, Klu Klux, Jew or Gentile. Everybody in the state knows Dr. Lee Steiner—and likes him too.

Thad McHattan, a humorous cuss, opened a jewelry shop which he advertised as being 'on the wrong side of the street' between Second and Third. Cale Oliver had a dray line and so did Dad Ramsby. George Hurn had a hardware store at the corner of Fifth—his son "Will" was the all-around athlete up at the high school. Remember the fight he and Virgil Noland had over a pretty high school miss? Will is a sedate Portland citizen now and the 'Miss' is a prominent society matron of Jackson county. Fred Sanderson came over from Bandon and opened a store—later he was mayor when the first pavement was laid. John Stilz was another early mayor. His sisters had a ladies' furnishing store near where the Owl Cafe is now. C. H. DeLap was a deputy in the county clerk's office under Geo. Chastain. Later he was elected—formed the habit—and is there yet. Hiram Murdoch was postmaster and Bob Emmit ranching. C. T. Darley arrived from Utah with a girl bride and began engineering irrigation ditches. He is still at it up in Marion county. Mason and Davis were the tunnel contractors. Wilbur White and Tom Stephens ("I aim to be reliable") were selling town lots where the Catholic church was to be built. Father Feusi, its priest, was the best booster we had, loved alike by men of all

Lou (Leonard) Baldwin and Zim Baldwin at home in Klamath Falls.
—Maude Baldwin collection.

faiths. A foreman on the tunnel job had two charming daughters. Will Baldwin captured one and Harry Benson the other—and both lived happy ever after. Doc Leonard arrived with his dental forceps and foot power drill and gave us all pains. His daughter, Lou, became Mrs. Zim Baldwin, now of Lakeview. A canny Scotch lawyer with a 'braw bride' fresh from the land of the thistle hung out his shingle but later preferred Lakeview—Arthur Hay is a successful attorney there. J. B. Mason and W. S. Slough from Kansas engaged in the real estate business and liked the country so well they induced nearly a score of old Kansas neighbors to follow out to Klamath. None ever went back either. Mason's tall son, Burge, grew some down on his upper lip and married Banker Worden's daughter, Mae. Burge II is at the university now. A man with a vision, named Abel Ady, was wading around waist deep in the lower marshes staking out swamp land to buy under the Oregon act. It was a popular delusion then that the river was to be lowered at Keno and the marshes drained. Somebody with power interferred at Washington and Ady's vision proved only a dream. The high school on the hill was under construction in 1905 and so was old Central school on Main street, where the new bank building now stands.

B. St. George Bishop was the town's official entertainer. If entertaining prominent visitors on the upper lake interferred with furniture business—ah well, B. St. George was a Virginian of the old school and as a houseboat host had no peer. Down by the bridge a skillful Nebraska carpenter named Towers was building a trim steamboat for Capt. Woodbury and Col. Wilkins. It made the run from Klamath Falls to Keno until later hauled by train to the Upper lake. That was the first and only time I ever saw a steamboat take a train ride. On Upper Klamath Lake was already the big Winema capable of carrying 200 picnickers and half as many cases of beer up to Pelican Bay—

marked then only by one log house. R. C. Spink was in charge of the agency store and telling folks what a great fishing resort Spring Creek would eventually become. Algoma was not yet. Chiloquin was but a camp site for Indian picnics. Bill Tingley and Beck were whacking bulls for Abner Weed in a logging camp near Grass Lake. Dan and Jim Driscoll had a store at Bonanza. "Ol" Hamaker was then as now 'the life of the party' there. Ernest Nitchelm was just starting to school with a first reader under his arm. Tom Delzell was learning to ride his cayuse pony 'Billy' and dreaming of some day running the town herd of cows. Every one kept a cow then. John McCall was courting a girl named 'Ruby' and occasionally borrowing Tom's pony to take her riding. On summer moonlight nights the frogs by the millions would migrate northward across Main street and sleepy lodgemen walking home after refreshments in the wee sma' hours would crush them at every step—causing a most uncomfortable sensation. Lord only knows why they migrated—maybe to feed the snakes up in the canyon. Prohibition is here now, the snakes are gone—ditto the frogs—nothing but the moonshine left. Down on the water front the night birds gave their eerie cries, tired mothers patched trousers for little boys who later were to fight overseas and some to sleep on Flanders Fields. Little girls in pigtails, rocking dollies to sleep then are now among the elite of Klamath's society, some of them with little girls of their own. A quarter of a century brings lots of changes. Maybe this jumble of rambling reminiscences will furnish topics for more extended remarks around many Klamath supper tables. I trust it may also prove—like the fleas on the pup which keep him from broodin' on bein' a dog—a diversion sadly needed in these hectic days of Hooverian prosperity.

The American Bank and Trust Company building, about 1906-7, at the southeast corner of Fifth and Main, now occupied by Miller's Department Store.

—Maude Baldwin collection.

Banking Stories of Early Days . . .

by Ida Odell

(Reprinted in part, from the Herald & News of probably early in 1950.)

The Klamath County Bank occupied a unique place in the hearts of its customers. It had developed from the old days of cattlemen who traded with the "Old Brick Store," depositing their cattle sales checks with the store and trading the credit out, often to have credit balances running from year to year.

The owners of the store decided that since they were doing a banking business they might as well take out a charter, which was done and an archway cut in the rear of the store into an adjoining room of decidely limited space, and here the first bank was started.

When these quarters were outgrown the building on the corner of 4th and Main was leased and to this corner the bank was moved. This old bank was regarded by its customers much as the father in a family is by his children—as head of the group, o be respected, to be deferred to, to be cusse l occasionally, but always to be depended upon in time of need.

In fact the Klamath County Bank was so much a part of its customers' lives as to prove embarrassing to the organization at times. For instance, the habit of some depositors when needing money to neglect the formality of consulting the bank's management and simply issuing checks against the organization regardless of the lack of funds to meet the paper.

Of course all banks run up against overdrafts and careless accounting by depositors, but even in those days it was not entirely unusual for overdrafts of from $25,000 to $40,000 to be regarded with favor. However, the old Klamath County Bank knew that its cattlemen and other businessmen were certain to liquidate the overdrafts upon sale of their commodities. Finally the state banking department impressed upon the bank that not only was such a practice unbusinesslike, it was also undesirable from the point of view of the department.

Many of the customers given to this habit found this quite unreasonable on the part of the banking department, some of them even saying that inasmuch as the bank used their money for long stretches at a time, why wasn't it just as equitable that they use the bank's money?

In time, however, everyone adapted himself to the new arrangement with the exception of one cattle firm, and Mr. "Jerry" Martin, president of the bank, simply laughed at the continued insistance on overdrawing and instructed the bank's employes to charge all those checks to his own account and keep a listing of them in one of the passbooks then in use.

This was done, and often he was carrying these men to the sum of $30,000 to $40,000 without a scratch of a pen on their part to show the indebtedness. Interest was figured monthly on the account and added to the principal. It is also interesting to remember that the going rate of interest was 10 per cent.

The banker of those days was as familiar with the personal details of a customer's life as was his physician or minister, and held the knowledge just as sacred. However, the employees never failed to watch with interest the progress of a love affair from the first present to the purchase of the engagement ring, as exhibited by the checks issued.

The progress of a drinking bout was even more apparent from the first wavering until the final capitulation.

All of these bits of human interest or human frailty were as securely locked away in the minds of the employees as was the cash in the vault at night, and have passed from memory as have the persons concerned in them.

Many interesting and exciting things filled the lives of the small banking force of this old Klamath County Bank and a few of the incidents in which the participants were not local characters could be related now with no fear of indiscretion. During the time the bank was housed in the building concerned in this paper, Klamath county was enjoying local option.

With local option there were always professional bootleggers. One of these, _____, had been caught, convicted and sentenced to 30 days in the county jail and a fine of $500. He had a substantial bank account and the sheriff brought him into the bank where he wrote a check for the $500 and presented it to A. R. (Orb) Campbell for payment.

Orb walked into the vault and Leslie Rogers told him that there was a wrapped package of currency contining $500 in the manganese safe. Orb picked it up and walked back to his window, but Leslie remembered that he had wrapped $1000 instead of $500, and called this information to Orb, which the latter did not hear and the package was handed to _____. That night when the boys went to balance, of course they were short $500, and comparing notes they knew where the shortage was.

The two boys went over to the jail and asked _____ for the money. He declared that he and his wife had both counted it and found it contained only $500 which had been turned over to the sheriff. Ruefully the boys returned to the bank and decided to await the return of Alex Martin, Jr., cashier and manager of the bank, from his Portland trip. Upon Alex's return he was immediately told and he got the sheriff to bring _____ over to his office. There he faced the bootlegger and said: "_____, both the boys know you got $1000, and Miss Momyer knows it, and it's up to you to return the $500."

"Honest, Alex, there was only $500 in the package," the man declared, so that was that. Leslie and Orb decided that one was as much to blame as the other so each signed a note for $250 and prepared to face some lean months, for $500 was quite a pocketful of money in those days. At the end of the 30-day jail sentence _____ walked into the bank and stopped at the square table which stood in the center of the lobby. Orb was at his window and Leslie at the other, and the thought went through each mind that _____ was preparing to withdraw his account.

Presently the man presented a check to Orb for $500, which Orb silently cashed. _____ took the money, walked across to Leslie's window and thrust it through, saying:

"Boys, I thought I could be a thief but I find I can't. When my wife and I counted the thousand we figured we could pay the fine and have our money too, but I can't do it." Soon after that he left the community and later we heard of his death.

In talking this old story over with Orb last night over the phone I heard him murmur: "Dumb trick not to count the money before giving it to _____.

"However, we had no labeled wrappers in those days, currency was little used as gold was the medium of exchange and while it may seem odd today, it was excusable considering the customs at the time. The boys and Alex and I were all very happy to watch the destruction of the two notes."

Alex Martin was president of the bank at that time and his language was both picturesque and potent. Many pithy sayings are still in use which were originated by Mr. Martin, "Uncle Jerry" to many.

One day Alex Jr. had an inquiry about some lots which had been platted by a promoter, who happily was not a local man. The lots had been sold by this Easterner to school teachers, clerical workers and others in the eastern states under the representation that Klamath Falls was a town with a future, which it was, and that the lots could well make a fortune for a buyer.

As the lots were located over the ridge behind the present Hot Springs addition, this was rather fanciful. Alex handed Mr.

Martin the letter and said: "What shall I tell them the lots are worth, dad."

"Tell them the lots just lack six bits of being worth a damn," rumbled his father. From that time on the bank force had a good phrase to express perfect worthlessness.

Upstairs over the bank two young attorneys had just hung out their shingles, Horace Manning and Richard Shore (Dick) Smith, the latter still a Columbia football hero. An older attorney, Judge Drake, also long since passed away, also had his office up there. Judge was a brilliant lawyer but addicted to moody spells which culminated in heavy drinking.

He had an immense St. Bernard dog with great, bloodshot eyes, and this faithful companion always tried, with not much success, to guide the judge's wavering footsteps. The two were a familiar sight along Main street in those days when everyone knew everyone else.

On 4th street in the same building with the bank, Don J. Zumwalt, Bert Withrow and Allen Sloan housed their Klamath County Abstract company.

When, in order to get the name, the Klamath County Bank bought the First National Bank, and with the other assets, the building now occupied by The California Power Company, that building was about five steps above street level.

The newcomers lowered the floor to the street level and moved across to the new location. Leslie Rogers was selected as cashier and manager, replacing Alex Martin, Jr., who had made connections with the First National Bank of Eugene. A. R. Campbell was appointed assistant cashier, and the old Klamath County Bank with its many memories of community development passed into history, but it still lives in many of our hearts.

Klamath Falls Only Bank Robbery

(*Reprinted from The Klamath Republican of January* 21, 1909)

A few minutes before noon Saturday two masked robbers entered the Klamath County Bank and at the points of revolvers held up the cashier, Alex Martin, Jr., and secured about $3500 in currency and gold. Two customers were in the bank at the time, Don J. Zumwalt and C. C. Brower. Mr. Martin was alone behind the counter, the clerks having gone to dinner.

The two men ordered everybody to throw up their hands, and one of the men passed an African water bag through the wicket to Mr. Martin and told him to fill it with money. Two trays were on the counter containing about $3000 in currency and $500 in gold. The robbers were not satisfied until all of the money was emptied into the bag. The man with the money then walked out of the door, the other man guarding his exit. The two men wore masks made of green mosquito netting.

The men came from the bridge and entered the bank wearing the masks. They were seen by a number of people who did not realize what was happening until it was all over. Miss McMillan and others at the Lakeside Inn, which is opposite the bank, saw the men enter, and as soon as it had dawned upon them what was taking place a telephone call was sent in to the sheriff. By that time the men had left the bank, the one with the money going east and entering the alleyway between the Brewery building and the Bank Exchange. The last man to leave went west to the corner and then started running down the middle of Conger avenue, still wearing the mask.

Mr. Zumwalt was the first out of the bank, followed by Martin and Brower. They ran to Conger avenue and took several shots at the fleeing man. Fully a hundred people were on the scene by this time. The man disappeared around the corner of the Weber barn back of the Brick Store. The barn was quickly surrounded by a large party armed with revolvers, rifles and shotguns. The

barn was then entered by Deputy Sheriff Schallock, Chas. R. Baldwin, Lyle Mills and others, and after quite a search the man was found buried under the hay beneath the barn.

Jack Hall, the second robber, was captured about 2:30 that afternoon by Deputy Sheriff Schallock as he was leaving a haystack near the county road below town. He was brought to town and placed in jail. He was quite bold in his talk and refused to answer questions, stating that he was not on the witness stand.

Judge Miller, who suspected who the party was, went to the Klamath House and made a search of the rooms. Nothing was found in Hall's room, but a big bundle of greenbacks was found under some clothing in a closet in the garret, together with a hat and other clothing Hall had changed. The money was brought to the sheriff's office where it was identified by Mr. Martin, cashier of the bank.

A vigorous search was carried on all afternoon, with the result that all of the money, with the exception of $280, was recovered.

Monday morning both men were arraigned and the Court appointed F. H. Mills as attorney for Previer and John Irwin as attorney for Hall. The attorneys were given until Tuesday morning to confer with their clients before entering a plea. When this time had expired, Attorney F. H. Mills entered a demurrer to the indictment, claiming that the indictment was not drawn in correct form, in that it did not specify the nature of the deadly weapon used. After considerable argument the Court overruled the demurrer, and the defendant was asked to plead. He stated that he went with the other man but not because he wanted to but because he was forced to do so. The Court informed the defendant that he would have to plead Guilty or Not Guilty. The defendants then plead guilty.

Attorney John Irwin, for John Hall, asked the Court for time until the afternoon in which to plead. The Court set 3 o'clock. At 3 o'clock Hall was brought into Court and entered a plea of guilty.

When court convened Wednesday the two prisoners were brought into Court and Riley Previer was asked by the Judge if he had anything to say before sentence was pronounced. His attorney, F. H. Mills, stated that before sentence was pronounced, he wished to submit certain evidence as to the previous character of the prisoner and also have him tell his own story of the whole affair. The Court granted the request.

C. B. Clendenning was then called and stated that Previer had worked for him in his feed barn about a month and a half, and that his character had been good. He had always considered him honest, as he often collected bills for him.

Chas. Woodard stated that he had known Previer for three months, and that he had seen him and known of him for nearly two years. That the young man had worked for him two months steady and at odd times since; that he had worked for him Friday afternoon, the day before the robbery, and that he had always believed him straight.

Riley Previer was then allowed to tell his own story. In a voice hardly audible he recited how his home was at Lebanon, Oregon; how he had left there about six years ago and gone to Prineville where he worked for a while; from there he came to Klamath Falls and went to Dorris and worked in a blacksmith shop; he then had worked for the McIntire Company, the Telephone company and Mr. Woodard. He had been sick considerable while working for Woodard and had become acquainted with Hall at the Klamath House. Hall had been good to him and loaned him money. During the last two weeks Hall had talked to him about holding up the bank. He still owed Hall money and was afraid of him. He was trying to earn enough money so as to pay him and intended going away. Saturday just before the robbery he went up to their room with Hall and after taking three or four drinks of whiskey he consented to go with Hall. He knew they were going to a bank, but did not know which one as he had never been in any of the banks. They came down the street to the Klamath County

Bank and he walked on by as he did not know that was the place.

He was told by Hall that he was to stay in the bank and keep the men there until he got away with the money. He then came out and ran down Conger avenue. In answer to questions by Mills, he stated that he had not been told what to do or where to go; that he had no plans how to get away or where to hide, and his reason for going into the barn was that the men were shooting at him and he did not know where else to go. He said that the reason he did not report the matter to the officers when Hall first tried to get him to go with him, was that he was afraid as Hall had told him that if he ever got him caught he would tend to him some time. In answer to Judge Noland he stated that he was 22 years old. He also stated that he had never been arrested before, and was not in the habit of drinking.

Prosecuting Attorney Kuykendall stated that he had received a communication from the Chief of Police, of Lebanon, who said that Previer's reputation was good while there and that his parents were highly respected. The Grand Jury also recommended leniency in the case of Previer.

Judge Noland stated that as this was the first time that the prisoner had been charged with the violation of the law of the country he would be lenient in imposing sentence. It was evident from the evidence that he had been raised differently and should had led a different life, and he wished to give him an opportunity to reform, and further, in consideration of the recommendation of the Grand Jury, it would be the sentence of the Court that Riley Previer be imprisoned in the state penitentiary at Salem for a period of five years.

John Hall was then asked if he had anything to say before sentence was pronounced. He said: "I don't know that I have much to say. I want to say that this man has told you false. His whole story is one falsehood. That is all I have to say."

In pronouncing sentence Judge Noland said: "It is the opinion of this Court that you were the leader in this matter. You would have been willing and ready to take life if resistance had been made. The Court will not be as lenient with you as in the other case. I say this in all kindness and hoping that you will profit from this experience. It is the sentence of this Court that you be confined in the state penitentiary of Oregon for ten years."

Hall appeared very nervous and excited when Previer was only sentenced to five years and it was evident that he expected that his partner was to be let off easy and he was to get a heavy sentence. He was still exceedingly nervous after sentence had been pronounced and seemed to realize what it meant, more so than the younger man. The Court room was well packed and after sentence was pronounced a number of friends crowded forward to shake hands with the prisoners, among them a few women.

As Told To Me . . .

by Ray Telford, November 16, 1951
Recorded by Devere Helfrich

I was working on a boat at the time the old Klamath County Bank was held up. Riley Previer, who was just a young fellow, and an older man who was the leader, held up the bank in the Old Brick Store building. The store had a door on each side of the bank and ran around behind it—U shaped. The two men roomed together farther down Main street. Previer worked in the livery stable for Chas. Baldwin. They put on their masks under this end of the old bridge, and then went to the bank and held it up. I don't remember how much they got, probably two or three thousand. There wasn't

too much in sight at the time. Previer stayed and held the three in the bank, while the older man escaped with the money.

After he thought he had allowed plenty of time, Previer ran out of the bank and north along Conger. Two of the men grabbed guns and followed. They saw him running and both shot after him several times but didn't hit him. He ran into our barn, crawled into the hay-mow and covered himself with hay. The sheriff was out of town, and Schallock was the only officer around. He was afraid to go into the barn, and thought Previer had escaped into the brush which covered the hillside in those days. Chas. Baldwin and another young fellow went into the barn which was a pretty nervy thing to do because Previer had a gun. They didn't find anything in the barn, so Chas. Baldwin and the other fellow began to pitch the hay back and uncovered Previer. He looked up and said, "Hellow, Charlie," to Baldwin who he worked for. In the meantime the other man ran out of the bank, up Payne Alley to Pine Street, followed down it and to their room. He had a water sack cut open at the top, hung under him arm and covered by his coat, in which he placed the money. On the way to his room he met Childers for whom he had been working. Childers asked him if he would hitch up a team and wagon and get him a load of hay, so he said he would. He went to their room and hid the money all around, not in one place but scattered it all over the room.

The men knew Previer and another man roomed together, so they went there and began to search the room. They began to find money stashed everywhere, so when the fellow returned with the load of hay they nabbed him.

The Banks of Klamath Falls . . .

by Devere Helfrich

The First National Bank at the northeast corner of Fourth and Main, in the early twenties. The Golden Rule store built in an L shape around the bank building, facing on Main and on Fourth.

—Bert C. Thomas collection.

In the beginning, as previously described by writers of an earlier day, banking in the Klamath country, if such it can be called, was an hit and miss affair. The two predominant business houses of Linkville-Klamath Falls, The Brick Store and Baldwin Hardware, did what unofficial banking was required.

By January 10, 1895 the *Klamath Falls Express,* in their Souvenir Edition, wrote: "A bank with a fair-sized capital, could do a paying and safe business. There is no institution of the kind in Klamath county and its need has been long felt."

In a letter dated August 16, 1967, Ida Momyer Odell adds further facts to her article published in previous pages of this annual. "In those days the country was largely cattle country. Shook Bros., John and two others, were big cattle operators. They went all over Lake and Klamath Counties buying and would pay with drafts drawn on The Brick Store which were always honored. Other firms such as Martin Bros., S. E. (Ed), Charles and John also used the same method to finance themselves. Mr. Alex Martin, Sr., and his associates in the old Brick Store decided they were actually doing a banking business so might as well incorporate as a bank. S. E. Martin and his brothers were not related to the Martins in the bank."

What rate of interest, if any, was charged by those early firms is unknown. However, the members of both firms eventually entered the banking business along with their other activities.

The Klamath County Bank was the first organized, and a rather detailed account of their early activities is recorded by several issues of the old *Klamath Republican* newspaper, and follow:

(*Republican,* December 6, 1900): "Alex Martin Sr. and Jr. and E. R. Reames organized the Klamath County Bank as a private institution, June 1, 1899."

(July 27, 1899): "The Klamath County Bank has its sign up and is now ready for business."

(August 3, 1899): "K. D. Jones has the contract to build a stone wall at eacl end of the alley, between the brick building in which Alex Martin & Co. have their general merchandise store and the stone building now used as a hardware store by Geo. T. Baldwin. This space when fixed up will be used by the Klamath County Bank. The vault doors were brought up from Ager last Thursday by Jas. Moore. The building will be completed this fall. Until then the bank will be in Alex Martin & Co.'s store."

(August 31, 1899): "K. P. Jones began the foundation on the new bank building Tuesday. The steel walls and floor of the vault have all arrived and will be put together in a short time, but a stone foundation is necessary for the vault to rest on, which Mr. Jones has been working on this week."

(September 28, 1899): "The proposed new bank building, the vault for which is already completed, will soon occupy the space between Martin & Co. and Geo. T. Baldwin. The new bank will be 20 x 60 feet and one story high, built of stone and finished in fine style."

(July 12, 1900): "The safe of the Klamath County Bank indulged in the luxury of a new and latest improved time lock on Saturday."

(December 6, 1900): "Last Friday (November 30th—Editor) the Klamath County Bank filed with the county clerk its articles of incorporation, under the state laws, with capital stock of $50,000, which is fully subscribed. Alex Martin, Sr., E. R. Reames and Alex Martin, Jr. are the incorporators, with Klamath Falls named as the principal place of business. The directors are Alex Martin, Sr., president; E. R. Reames, vice-president; Alex Martin, Jr., cashier."

(January 29, 1903): "The Klamath County Bank has lately installed an adding machine, which is a marvel for speed and accuracy and a great saver of time and mental energy. It is an intricate mechanism and shows one of the late strides of inventive genius. A column of figures a yard long may be prepared and added in a few minutes. There is a keyboard something

like that on a typewriter. The operator strikes the numbers to be added and they appear in a neatly printed column. When he has the list completed and wants the total printed, he turns a crank and the work is done. At any stage in preparing the column, which requires little time, he may see the total of progress made. There are safeguards against the possibility of errors, and altogether it is a wonderful machine which one would not be without after once using it."

(October 8, 1903): " A New Bank. Klamath Falls to Have a National Bank. Will Build on Main Street. The application of George Lindley, G. W. White, G. P. Lindley, F. K. Devel and W. B. Jackson to organize the First National Bank of Klamath Falls, Or, has been approved by the comptroller of the currency. The bank will employ a capital of $25,000.

"George Lindley is the cashier of the Jackson County Bank of Medford, and G. W. White is in the banking business in Coquille. The others we understand are wealthy valley ranchers.

"Mr. White, who has been in the city the past week, has bought the Maltby property on Main street on which the company will erect a two story bank and office building, probably of stone and brick. Mr. White has also purchased the residence property of William Lubke on the West Side."

(February 25, 1904): "G. W. White, president of the First National Bank, on Tuesday (February 23rd—Ed.) purchased of Geo. T. Baldwin the stone building on Main street, known as the A.O.U.W. building.

"The East room will be fitted up with a vault and bank fixtures and used temporarily by the First National Bank until their new bank building is completed. The main store room has been leased to Mr. Baldwin who

Looking north on Fourth Street from Klamath Avenue, about the 1910-11 period. Building at left, second location of the City Hall and Fire House. On the right, Virgil and Sons Furniture Store, the upstairs rooms occupied by the Elks Lodge at one time; small building unknown; brick structure, the Klamath County Bank, later the Hall Hotel and now the Stevens; across Main, the First National Bank, now Pacific Power and Light Co. offices. —Bert C. Thomas collection.

will continue his hardware business. The new bank will begin business on March 14."

(August 20, 1905): Portion of an adv.: "E. M. Bubb, Assistant Cashier of the Klamath County Bank . . ."

(November 8, 1906): "Major C. E. Worden, President of the American Bank and Trust Company, returned from California Saturday, whither he had accompanied Mrs. Worden and daughter Mae. While there, he purchased the balance of the fixtures for the bank."

(November 15, 1906): American Bank and Trust Company information—Chas. E. Worden, President; Fred Melhase, Vice-President; J. W. Siemens, Cashier; E. M. Bubb, Assistant Cashier. Capital Stock, $100,000. (Add.)

(July 11, 1907): Statement of July 8th, shows Leslie Rogers as Assistant Cashier.

(August 22, 1907): "Announcement was made this week by the First National Bank of this city that it would open for business, as an adjunct to this well known institution, the First Trust and Savings Bank. It is expected that it will be ready for business October 1.

"The incorporators of the new bank are: G. W. White, J. W. Siemens, George T. Baldwin, George R. Lindley, George P. Lindley, W. I Vawter, and E. Denton. These are identical with the stockholders of the First National, the capital of both institutions being the same — $25,000. G. W. White will be president and J. W. Siemens cashier. Under the able management of Mr. Siemens and with the prestige and assistance of the other officers of the First National the new bank will be assured of a most successful career. Mr. Siemens is no stranger to the financial interests of the county and possesses the esteem and confidence of practically every individual in the county.

"Since its organization the First National has been blessed with the same degree of prosperity that has been the good fortune of the other banks of this county as well as of all interests. With the aid of the new institution it will undoubtedly continue its successful career with added impetus."

(October 3, 1907): "The First Trust and Savings Bank will open for business on October 15. It was the intention of the founders of the new institution to begin business on the first of this month, but all of the details were not perfected in time to admit of the carrying out of such a program. The new bank will occupy quarters in the same room with the First National Bank. While both institutions are distinctly separate, the stockholders of one are equal stock holders in the other, thus preventing any conflict of business.... Interest at the rate of three per cent per annum will be paid by the new institution, payable semi-annually. One of the features of the bank will be debenture bonds which it will issue. These bonds will carry a higher rate of interest than that paid on saving deposits and will be doubly secured.... It is the fourth financial institution, the second to be established this year."

(February 6, 1906): "NOTICE. Notice of Intention to Change the Principal Place of Business of the German Commercial Savings Bank of Klamath Falls, Oregon. Pursuant to the written consent of the holders of all the Capital Stock of the German Commercial Savings Bank, which written consent has been obtained, and is now on file in the office of said corporation, and pursuant to the resolution of the Board of Directors of said corporation, ordering that the removal and change herein mention be made.

"Notice is hereby given, that it is the intention of said corporation to remove and change its principal place of business from the town of Klamath Falls, Klamath County, Oregon, to the city of Portland, Multnomah County, State of Oregon, said removal and change to take effect on the 20th day of March, A.D. 1908, after the due publication of this notice.

By order of the Board of Directors,
Dated this 20th day of January, 1908.
F. N. Myers
Secretary German Commercial
Savings Bank.

(No further information of any kind has been found, regarding this institution. Old-timers consulted have no knowledge of it. —Ed.)

(January 28, 1909): "Miss Ida Momyer, who arrived last week from California, has accepted a position as stenographer with the Klamath County Bank."

(February 18, 1909): "The Klamath County Bank has received the fixtures for their new building and the same are being installed. As soon as the new fixtures are in place and the interior of the building finished, the bank will have very handsome quarters."

(March 23, 1909): "The Klamath County Bank, the oldest financial institution in the county, will finish moving to their new quarters in the morning, and will be ready for business at the corner of Fourth and Main. (Site of the present Stevens Hotel —Ed.)

(*Evening Herald*, March 27, 1909): "The First Trust and Savings Bank moved today from the First National Bank building to the quarters formerly occupied by the Klamath County Bank, and will be ready for business Monday. The bank will handle both commercial and savings accounts, but in the future it will do a general banking business. This gives Klamath Falls four commercial banking institutions. J. W. Siemens is the cashier of the bank."

(*Klamath Republican*, April 29, 1909): "The First National Bank moved Friday (April 23rd—Ed.) to its new brick building opposite the Court House, where it has handsome quarters fitted up. The entire first floor will be occupied by the offices of the bank. The second floor has been arranged into office suites. Dr. F. M. White, Attorney F. M. Mills and Assessor J. P. Lee have already leased quarters in the new building." (This is the site now occupied by the Pacific Power & Light Co.—Ed.)

(*Republican*, August 19, 1909): "The First National Bank announces a change in the directorship of their institution. George P. Lindley and W. L. Vawter of Medford, realizing that their other vast home interests required their personal attention, have disposed of their stock in the First National and J. A. Maddox of this place and D. M. Griffith of Eagle Ridge have been elected as their successors to fill the vacancy. Mrs. Fred Biehn and A. C. Beals have also purchased stock in this institution, consequently from now on this bank will be strictly composed of local people.... In addition to his investment in the bank Mr. Maddox has purchased from G. W. White an undivided one-half interest in the property next to the First National Bank on Main street, on which is being erected a new brick block. ...."

(*Republican*, September 16, 1909): "G. W. White, President of the First National Bank, has sold his holdings in that institution to J. W. Siemens and associates, and the First Trust and Savings Bank has been acquired by George R. Lindley and associates of Medford. Mr. White left for Portland yesterday morning.

"J. W. Siemens... has been elected president of the First National Bank He will also retain his position as cashier of the First Trust and Savings Bank. W. A. Delzell, the popular cashier of the First National, will retain his present position. Mr. White retires from the banking business on account of ill health..."

(*Republican*, October 7, 1909): "...The First Trust and Savings Bank, one of the most popular institutions in this county, which is attested by the fact of its phenomenal growth and prosperity since its inception. Captain J. W. Siemens, in whose integrity the people of this section place unbounded confidence, is largely due the credit of bringing this bank to its present high standard before the public.

"Men connected with the First Trust and Savings Bank were W. L. Vawter, George R. Lindley, H. U. Lumsden and George P. Lindley, all of Medford.

"Officials were: George T. Baldwin, president; George P. Lindley, vice-president and J. W. Siemens, cashier.

"Directors were J. A. Maddox, D. M.

Griffith, Mrs Fred Beihn and J. S. Siemens."

(Republican, November 4, 1909): "... The Klamath County Bank has purchased from Capt. J. W. Siemens all of his stock in the First National Bank, thus securing control of that institution.

"This is the most important transaction that has occured in this city since G. W. White disposed of his interests in the First National to Mr. Siemens and associates, about two months ago. Negotiations for the sale have been in progress for some weeks. The First National was recognized as a valuable asset and there were several financial men seeking its control, but Mr. Siemens preferred to turn it over to local capitalists and accepted the offer made by the Klamath County Bank...."

(*Evening Herald,* November 11, 1911): "Bank examiner Claude Gatch of Salem is inspecting the books of the Klamath County Bank to see if they qualify for consolidation with the First National Bank.... Alex Martin, Sr., was some weeks ago made president of the First National Bank to succeed L. F. Willits."

(*Evening Herald,* November 25, 1911): "December 1st is the date set for the merger of the Klamath County Bank and the First National Bank, now that the comptroller of the currency has signified his assent to the proposed consolidation."

(*Evening Herald,* November 27, 1911): "Officials of the newly consolidated banks are: president, Alex Martin, Sr.; vice-president, Alex Martin, Jr.; cashier, Leslie Rogers; assistant cashier, W. A. Delzell; directors, Alex Martin, Sr., Alex Martin, Jr., L. F. Willits, Charles S. Moore and E. R. Reames."

Returning now to early December, 1909, the Klamath Falls *Morning Express* printed a "Booster Issue", the news for which had evidently been gathered some months earlier. In it are listed the officials and sundry statistics of the four banks then in operation. A brief resume follows:

The Klamath County Bank, located at the southeast corner of Fourth and Main. Officials, Alex Martin, Sr., president; E. R. Reames, vice-president; Alex Martin, Jr., cashier; and Leslie Rogers, assistant cashier.

The First National Bank, whose officers are given as those just prior to the sale to J. W. Siemens: L. F. Willits, president; Geo. T. Baldwin, vice-president; and W. A. Delzell, cashier; plus directors, C. S. Moore, J. A. Maddox and D. M. Griffith. The bank was located at the northeast corner of Fourth and Main.

The American Bank and Trust Company, located at the southeast corner of Fifth and Main. Officers, Chas. E. Worden, president; Fred Melhase, vice-president; A. M. Worden, cashier; Fred Schallock, assistant cashier; others of the board of directors, Gus Melhase, secretary; W. S. Worden; and W. T. Shive, treasurer.

The First Trust and Savings Bank, located in the old Brick Store site, near the river. Officials connected with it were, J. W. Siemens, Sr., J. W. Siemens, Jr., Ed and George Bloomingcamp, Dan Murphy and Fred Garich.

The banking situation at the end of 1911 can be summed up as follows: There were three banks in operation. The First National was located at Fourth and Main, at the site of the present Pacific Power and Light Company's office; The American Bank and Trust Company at Fifth and Main, in the site now occupied by Miller's Department Store; and the First Trust and Savings Bank, at the corner of Second and Main, in the site now occupied by the Van Fleet Electric Store. This latter bit of information is determined from a photo in the Bert C. Thomas collection identified by Mr. Thomas as taken during 1911.

Officials of the three banks as of January, 1912 were listed in the *Republican* of January 11, 1912 and were as follows:

The First National Bank: Alex Martin, Sr., president; Charles S. Moore, vice-president; Leslie Rogers, cashier; Alex Martin, Sr., Charles S. Moore, E. R. Reames, L. F. Willits and Alex Martin, Jr., directors.

The American Bank and Trust Company: Fred Melhase, president; Fred Schallock,

Looking west on Main Street from Third. At left, Hector's Store, Palace Grill, Portland Store and First Trust and Savings Bank. Across Second Street, Houston's Opera House and Central building. To right on the corner, Link River Electric. About the 1911 period.
—Bert C. Thomas collection.

vice-president and cashier; Claude E. Daggett, assistant cashier; Gus Melhase, treasurer; with the above men and Fred Stitser as directors.

The First Trust and Savings Bank: J. W. Siemens, president; J. H. Siemens, cashier; with J. W. Siemens, Geo. T. Baldwin, P. M. Reidy, Jas. A. Maddox and D. M. Griffith, directors.

Exactly when the First Trust and Savings Bank moved to the Second and Main site has not been determined, but their third and last move "up-town" was in 1913 when J. W. Siemens purchased the American Bank and Trust from Fred Melhase and others, after Melhase had in turn bought out Major Worden.

The *Republican* of January 16, 1913 lists the following officials of the various banks:

Alex Martin, Sr., president; C. S. Moore, vice-president; Leslie Rogers, cashier; A. R. Campbell, assistant cashier; plus E. R. Reames, L. F. Willits, and E. P. McCornack as directors.

The American Bank and Trust Company: Fred Melhase, president; Fred Schallock, vice-president and cashier; Claude P. Chastain, assistant cashier, Claud H. Daggett, secretary; with Gus Melhase, Al Melhase and C. Stitser as directors.

The First Trust and Savings Bank: J. W. Siemens, president; P. M. Reidy, vice-president; John Siemens, cashier, C. W. Coseboom, assistant cashier; and Geo. T. Baldwin, Robert A. Emmitt, and Ed Bloomingcamp, directors.

(*Republican,* October 30, 1913): "W. H. Bennett, formerly State Bank Examiner, is to take over an interest in the First Trust and Savings Bank and become vice-president of the institution, which earlier in the year merged with the American Bank and Trust Company."

(*Republican,* January 15, 1914): "Officials of the First Trust and Savings Bank:

J. W. Siemens, Sr., president; W. H. Bennett, vice-president; John W. Siemens, Jr., cashier; Lawrence W. Mehaffey, assistant cashier; with J. W. Siemens, Sr., Will H. Bennett, E. L. Elliott, Ed Bloomingcamp and Geo. T. Baldwin, directors."

Up to and including 1914, this banking history has been compiled from old newspaper files at the *Herald and News* offices. However, due to the inaccessibility of the files during their rebuilding operations in 1967, it has been necessary to secure information, for the succeeding years, from those presently and formerly connected with banking in this area. The remainder of this article is possible only through their assistance. The editor wishes to take this opportunity to thank the following people for their assistance and deep interest in assembling a factual account of banking to the present time:

Alfred "Cap" Collier, E. M. "Ernie" Bubb, Oscar Shive, Mary Bothwell, Wm. H. Melhase, Ida Momyer Odell, Sam Richey, Lloyd L. Porter, Gib Fleet, Mike Shannon and K. D. Smith.

About 1918, the Klamath State Bank opened in a building they had built on the southwest corner of Sixth and Main, the present site of the First Federal Savings and Loan Association. They had bought the lot from C. B. Crisler, who had a butcher shop there. J. A. Gordon was president, Ida B. Momyer (Odell), cashier, and C. B. Crisler, Chas. E. Riley, a saloon keeper, and S. E. Martin, were three of the Board of Directors.

Later, probably in 1921 (letter to the Editor from Ida Momyer Odell), "an outside speculator named Hall, came to Klamath Falls, and he with some local cooperation got hold of some bank stock and proposed a merger of the First National and the Klamath State. We, the Klamath State, got permission from the State Banking Department for the merger and moved over to the First National, who took the notes and mortgages of the Klamath State and put them in the notes of the First National. Then the National Banking Department appeared on the scene and really raised ....."

"These Halls and their speculators had by-passed the National Banking laws. The rest of the story is long and involved... Mr. Gordon was given a secondary place in the new set up. It hurt his pride and he never really got over it."

In the meantime, the American National Bank was organized December 1, 1920, with E. M. Bubb, president, associated with Wm. C. Dalton, George L. Lindley and others.

They commenced business at the corner of Fifth and Main, opposite the First Trust and Savings Bank, in what is now La Pointe's on the ground floor of the Early Hotel building. In the basement of this building, the Chamber of Commerce once had their offices. The American National remained in this location less than a year, when they acquired the Klamath State Bank property at Sixth and Main and moved to that location.

To sum up the situation, it appears that the Klamath State Bank and the First National Bank merged sometime during 1921, with the First National surviving. Then late in that year, E. M. Bubb of the American National, traded with the First National for the former Klamath State Bank building.

As late as December, 1921 the First National was still at Fourth and Main, but by February, 1923 the site was occupied by the California-Oregon Power Company, who finally purchased the property in 1929 from Loomis. The First National Bank evidently moved, sometime in 1922 to the old location of the American National Bank (La Pointes'). Here they remained until November 15, 1930, when they moved in two feet of snow, to their present location at Sixth and Main.

Meanwhile, since their move of 1913 the First Trust and Savings Bank, with J. W. Siemens as president, had continued operating at Fifth and Main (Miller's). Then (*Herald and News*, June 21, 1964) "... on January 12, 1921 the community was jarred. The doors of the First Trust and Savings Bank remained closed and a note was tacked up on the front doors saying

'This bank is in the hands of the State Superintendent of Banks. There is every indication that this bank is solvent, but owing to heavy withdrawals which have resulted in depleted reserves, it has been forced to close its doors.'

"Marshall Hooper, assistant state superintendent of banking posted the sign.... Two days after the closure Captain Siemens returned from Portland and was greeted at the depot by several hundred townspeople who had come to express their confidence in him....

"A public subscription for a stock sale was taken up for the bank, and by March 7, the public had subscribed $180,000. This was $30,000 more than had been asked. They also had subscribed another $60,000 tentatively in event it was needed....

"On Monday, March 14, at 10 a.m. the First Trust and Savings Bank reopened with a flourish....However, about two years later, the doors closed again on this ill-fated banking venture. This time they did not reopen."

Thus, by the middle twenties, there were but two of the several banks in operation, the First National at Fifth and Main, and the American National at Sixth and Main.

Then, sometime during the late twenties, th Oregon Bank and Trust Company opened up between Ninth and Tenth on Main, in what is now known as the Medical-Dental Building. They may have occupied temporary quarters between Eighth and Ninth on the south side of Main, while the building was under construction. Their manager was John P. Duke, formerly of Spokane. This bank seems to have been liquidated about 1932.

On January 1, 1937 the American National Bank sold out to the United States National Bank of Portland. It is presently known as the United States National Bank of Oregon.

Two years later, around January 18, 1939 the United States National Bank moved into their present quarters, the southwest corner of Seventh and Main.

On August 7, 1934, the First Federal Savings and Loan Association was chartered and began business in the Oregon Bank and Trust Company building with quarters on Ninth between Main and Pine. When the United States National Bank moved out of its Sixth and Main quarters, the First Federal moved in. C. S. Robertson was the first manager, George McIntyre next, and Van Mollison the present.

In December, 1948 the First National opened their South Sixth Street Branch at 2809 South Sixth Street. On April 17, 1967 they moved into their new building at the same location.

On Saturday, November 9, 1957 the United States National opened a branch at the Town and Country Shopping District, located at 3720 South Sixth Street.

Finally, on January 11, 1958 the Bank of Klamath Falls was opened on the southwest corner of Sixth Street and Klamath Avenue.

Livery Stables and Blacksmith Shops . . .

by Devere Helfrich

The barns, or livery stables, and blacksmith shops of yesterday served the traveling public much as do the garages and service stations of today.

The History of Central Oregon, page 977, informs us that "...in 1868 or 1869 ...a blacksmith shop for a Mr. Coultas was built." Further we are informed that: "At the time of the outbreak of the Modoc War in the fall of 1872, Linkville was a town of, possibly, 40 inhabitants There was the store and post-office, a hotel, a blacksmith shop, a feed stable (ownership unknown) and a few residences all close to the river at the foot of what is now Main street."

Another version of this period, written

Arthur David Carrick, early day blacksmith, as a boy in Yreka, California.
—Courtesy Barbara Carrick Burns.

by Ida Momyer Odell, in the *Herald and News* of November 25, 1962, states: "In the meantime our Modoc War had been fought and first settler Nuss had become one of the first casualties, murdered by the marauding Modocs.

"Linkville was growing. In addition to Mr. Nurse's store and hotel, Otto Heidrick, grandfather of Eva Clemens and Ferne Miner, had built the first blacksmith shop about where Harry Richardson's (West End) Grocery is at present, and in addition to the store and hotel there was at least one saloon, and some dwellings."

By September, 1876 (*Ashland Tidings*), George Nurse in partnership with H. M. Thatcher had a "Livery Stable ready for use," on the south side of Main Street across from the present Baldwin Hotel. By 1877, his partner in the business was William Corpe, whose sister, Mary, was to later marry Nurse.

Another *Ashland Tidings* article of April 21, 1877 is quite interesting: "Merganser (the present Kesterson sawmill is located on the site) ... Blacksmith shop ready. We expect that Merganser will be the principal town in Eastern Oregon."

By August 10, 1879, the *Tidings* further informs us that: "... the Linkville population has doubled, now nearly 200, ... two livery stables, three blacksmith shops, one wagon shop..."

This article should not be considered a complete or final history on the livery stables and blacksmith shops of Linkville-Klamath Falls. A great deal more research is needed, but it is hoped this will be a starter, and in time more can be unearthed, which it is hoped, can be recorded in a future issue of Klamath Echoes.

The Editor recently received a letter, dated Saratoga, California, June 7, 1967, from Barbara Carrick Burns, which in part states, "that my grandfather, Arthur David Carrick, the son of Elijah Carrick, was born in Yreka, California, October 6, 1856.

"Arthur David Carrick was married in 1878 in Yreka, moving to Linkville about one year later, after living a short time at Red Bluff.

"A. D. Carrick was a master blacksmith. He worked on ships and trains—and traveled many a mile when called to do his work. He homesteaded land in Klamath County. He served on the school board and probably many other things in Klamath Falls.

"Eumenes Corpe, father of Mrs. George (Mary) Nurse, married Elizabeth Carrick, sister of Elijah, in Indiana, in 1844."

Following up a lead discovered in the above letter, the following article was found in the *Klamath Republican* of July 7, 1904:

"Last evening about 7:30 while returning from his barn, back of the Klamath Stables, Arthur D. Carrick, a pioneer resident and blacksmith of this city was struck by lightning and instantly killed. Mr. Carrick had left his house after his cow, which was out in the storm, and was just returning home from the barn when he was seen by several campers and others to fall to the ground. The witnesses rushed to his assistance but

Arthur David Carrick, blacksmith struck and killed by lightning, and Mary E. (George) Carrick.
—Courtesy Barbara Carrick Burns.

he was found to be beyond help as he never moved after falling to the ground. The body was taken to the Klamath Stables and after notifying the family, was later removed to his home. The lightning struck the unfortunate man on the top of the head and passed entirely through the body, burning places in the clothing and shoes.

"The funeral services were held this afternoon from the Opera House, under the auspices of the Masonic and A.O.U.W. Lodges, of which he was a member in good standing. The deceased was insured for $2000 in the latter lodge.

"Arthur D. Carrick was born in Yreka, California in 1856. He was married in 1878 to Miss Mollie George. Later he removed to Red Bluff and about 25 years ago (1879—Editor) came to Klamath Falls, where he engaged in the blacksmith business, making his home here ever since.

"The deceased leaves a wife and daughter, Mrs. Will (Leila Lucy) Humphrey, and three other children. His father and mother and brother, Myron Carrick, and sister, Mrs. Bailey, live at Yreka." (George William, a son, is the father of the writer of the above letter—Editor.)

Appearing in the same paper, *Republican,* July 7, 1904, was an add, the only one ever found advertising Mr. Carrick's business. It appeared this once, then ceased, for obvious reasons. It read:

— — — — —

Pioneer Blacksmith Shop
is open again for business at the old stand
Opposite
Hazen's Stables
All Work Guaranteed
A. D. Carrick, Prop'r.

— — — — —

(This means that the Carrick blacksmith shop was probably located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Sixth & Main Streets, or where the First National Bank is currently located.—Editor)

A partial list of early day Livery Stables would commence with Nurse's Pioneer Livery Stable, across from the present Baldwin Hotel. Burned in the great firse of 1889, a new Stable was rebuilt on the same location to become known as the Mamoth. It had many owners and proprietors, Straw Brothers being among the last, during the 1909 period.

Farther along Main, about half-way between Center and Second Streets, on the south side, was the Midway. R. W. Marple once ran it. Later Chas. Baldwin and a Mr. Gordon turned the stable into what was probably Klamath Falls' first garage.

At the southeast corner of Sixth and Main, stood Hazen's Livery and Feed Stable. The Klamath Stables were at the southwest corner of Seventh and Main; Buesing's at Ninth and Main; Bennett's on South Sixth Street and the Exchange. The OK Blacksmith Shop, owned and operated by Don Kenyon's father was also on South Sixth.

May we suggest that someone with a lot of time on their hands, undertake to work out the Livery Stable and Blacksmith history.

Elks Lodge parade of 1911, with the Klamath Falls Military Band forming in front of the Baldwin Hotel. The George Baldwin Hardware-A.O.U.W. building at the left.
—Bert C. Thomas collection.

The Baldwin Hotel

(Reprinted in part from an article by Ruth King in the Herald and News of September 3, 1961, with additions and notes, in parenthesis, by Devere Helfrich.)

In the section of the city where men moulded the beginning of the present Klamath Falls, where personalities tenaciously clung to beliefs in a future prosperous community and river and lake boats brought the great and the unknown to shore, is the Baldwin Hotel.... its story is a historical saga that has encompassed the traveler and those who shy away from change since 1906.

Its walls and roof have sheltered those with ambition and those willing to be passed by in the currents of progress. It has been home to some for nearly half a century. It has been a stopping place for the adventurer and the man of caution, to women in careers and to prospective mother "before hospitals".

A Portland man was paid the sum of $3,000 to draw up the plans for the George Baldwin family who saw the need for a new business building at the time that interest was centering on development of the great Klamath country, its livestock and agricultural potentials, the coming of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and of the railroads.

(The first intimation located to date, in old newspaper files, that George Baldwin might be looking to the future, is found in the *Klamath Republican* of July 3, 1903:

"Geo. T. Baldwin completed a deal Tuesday with Major Worden, whereby he traded his warehouse property near the bridge for the lot just east of his hardware building. He also received a further consideration of $1500.")

(Republican, December 29, 1904: "Workmen are forging their way into the rock cliff by the side of Geo. T. Baldwin's store (the A. O. U. W. building still standing, immediately to the west of the Baldwin Hotel), preparing a foundation for Mr. Baldwin's mammoth new building which will be built in the spring. The building will be three stories high (as finally finished it was four and a half stories.) The width of the new block will be 70 feet. The depth of the basement will be 30 feet, the second story will run back 60 feet and the third will extend 80 feet. The third story will be used for the storage of vehicles, which can be run into the building from the rear on level ground."

(Actual construction on the building itself, probably began in early 1905, and approximately one year later, the new four and one-half story Baldwin Block, now known as the Baldwin Hotel, was opened to the public.

(Republican, August 17, 1905: "Geo. T. Baldwin, the hardware merchant, has added one story to his new building this week. There will be two more stories added, and when completed, will be one of the finest buildings in Southern Oregon."

(Republican, August 24, 1905: "The brick layers who have been at work on the school building will have the third story on the Baldwin hardware store by Saturday night."

(Republican, October 19, 1905: "The third most important building (the High School and Central School, in that order, were considered first and second) being constructed in the city is the four story brick being built by George T. Baldwin, the hardware merchant. This is located on Main street one block east of the bridge. It is the largest building in Klamath Falls and is estimated to cost between $15,000 and $20,000. It has a 65 foot front and is 80 feet deep with four stories. The entire building is constructed of Klamath county brick."

Early day manufacture of brick in Klamath Falls. The present day brick yard is in the same location, north of town, and west of the Freeway. —F. M. Priest photo.

(Exactly when the Baldwin building was actually opened for its first use has not been determined to date, but the following article as reprinted by the Republican of December 6, 1906 gives us a vague idea: "Judge Geo. T. Baldwin, of Klamath Falls, Ore., recently completed the erection of the Baldwin block, in that city at a cost of $20,000, it being a modern four-story brick structure, said to be one of the handsomest and best appointed buildings in the interior of Oregon. Judge Baldwin expects to occupy the lower floor with his large stock of hardware, implements and kindred lines on which he has a large trade. The Klamath country is destined to a large increase in population and with the completion of the new railways, now only a matter of a short time, a much larger trade may be looked for in all lines—Vehicle Record."

(Republican, December 27, 1906: "Dr. T. Parker has removed his office from the Baldwin building to the American Bank and Trust Building." It is possible this removal was caused by renters moving in, who desired the entire floor.

(As originally planned and constructed the "Baldwin Block" was to be occupied by Baldwin's personal hardware store on the ground floor, and office rooms upstairs for rental. In some E. B. Hall reminescences, as recorded in the Herald and News of August 5, 1948, this fact is borne out.

(Possibly the first of three large renters was the Inland Empire Club(Klamath Falls' first Chamber of Commerce. They occupied half of the third floor with offices and club rooms, and moved in on February 23, 1907, according to the Republican of February 28th.

Baldwin Hotel, right, and Lakeside Inn, left distance, during the winter of 1907. "Linkville Trolley" rails, center foreground. —Maude Baldwin collection.

(At approximately the same time the remainder of the third floor was occupied by the U. S. G. S. Reclamation Service. The second floor was at least partially occupied by the Klamath Water Users Association, a local organization representing the land owners of the Klamath Basin. The latter two occupants and date is derived from an old photograph of the Baldwin Block, with their signs painted on the east wall.

(The first picture of the new "Baldwin Block" appeared in the Republican of February 28, 1907. One week later, March 7, 1907, the same picture appeared with George Baldwin's first ad for his new hardware store in the Republican. — Editor)

Ruth King once more takes up the story:

The thick native stone walls defy the heat of summer and the cold of winter. They are 36 inches through on the ground floor, 26 inches at the second and third floor levels and 12 inches at the top floor.

There are thousands of board feet of lumber in the building. High beaded wainscotings, floors, the bannisters, woodwork and door and window frames gleam with long years of polishing. No knot has ever been found to mar the woodwork surfaces.

Each floor is on the ground level except the top half story. The third floor is on the Pine Street level and a newsboy of yesteryear soon discovered he could deliver a paper to the Baldwin, dash up the stairs to the third floor, cross Pine Street and go over the hill the short way home.

The beam and pillar angle irons and the long timbers used in the building were brought by freight wagons from Pokegama where the early railroad stopped short of Klamath Falls.

Furnishings, also, including the 32 brass beds still in use, handsome oak dressers with "curliques" and beveled mirrors and the quaint old wood burning heaters, many still in use in the clean rooms, came by the same routes.

The charm of stained glass in 284 small panes dominates the first floor front wall above the lobby, catching sunlight to sparkle on a modern floor, recently put down. Not one pane of glass has ever cracked from settling of the building for there is no place for it to settle.

A mezzanine leads to the floors above.

Some guests who have lived in the hotel for many years have housekeeping apartments. Others use the sleeping rooms and "eat out" as does Herbert S. Ballard, who has lived in the same room since 1917. (Mr. Ballard has now been an occupant of the Ponderosa Convalescent & Nursing Home for two years, but still retains the same room at the Baldwin that he has had for the last fifty years.—Editor)

Mr. and Mrs. Andy B. Moore, the second owners of the Baldwin were both born in Missouri. They came to Bonanza in 1910, and to Klamath Falls in 1922, to buy and operate the Central Hotel at Ninth and Main. On September 1, 1923 they became the owners of the Baldwin.

The new owners bowed to progress and installed a central gas heating plant but the Baldwin is probably the only hotel of its size on the west coast still using small wood heaters in some rooms to chase away the chill. The building is air conditioned.

Every room in the building is plastered and though the repeated applications of wall paints flake and peel, no crack in the plastered surfaces has ever been found. Some of the original bathroom plumbing is still in use and one "antique," a flush box with pull chain, installed near the high ceiling, has been preserved.

The Moores retired in 1951 and turned over the business lock, stock and barrel to their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Mart Jones, who are just as interested in the folks beneath their roof-tree as were Mr. and Mrs. Moore.

Mart and Vera Jones live "on the premises" in an attractive apartment.

Mr. and Mrs. Moore said they tried to make a comfortable home for the better class of workingmen. That simple state-

ment without ostentation gives an insight into the couple's character.

That goal is today being sought by Mr. and Mrs. Jones, who see beauty in the wood and stone in the building, the silver streak of moonlight across Ewauna Lake, and who cherish the friendships that are lasting through the years.

Thus ends Ruth King's share of this bit of history.

(Further light is shed on the early operation of the Baldwin by an article on E. B. "Bert" Hall, printed in the Herald and News of August 5, 1948: " * * * Hall came to Klamath Falls in 1905 from Denver, Colo., and soon plunged into affairs of the community (promotion of White Lake City). He started in the hotel business at the Baldwin, which had been built by Judge George Baldwin as an office building. Mr. and Mrs. Hall moved into the building in order to have an apartment there, and the structure advanced through an apartment stage to a hotel."

(Excerpts from the newspapers of that period add additional light to the Baldwin Block history as follows:

([Republican, June 18, 1908]: "The Inland Empire Club rooms have been transformed into an immense carriage repository, * * * $4,000 worth of vehicles."

([Evening Herald, September 7, 1908]: "The walls of the rooms on the second, third and fourth floors of the Baldwin block are being tinted, preparatory to furnishing the rooms for hotel purposes and light housekeeping. The three floors have been leased to Mrs. E. B. Hall, who will have charge of the rooms for the present. Judge Baldwin is seriously considering converting this big four story brick into a modern hotel. One plan is to reduce his immense stock of hardware, move back to the A. O. U. W. building, turn the first floor into a dining room, and put in an elevator."

([Evening Herald, February 18, 1909]: "The Water Users moved this afternoon to the Murdoch building."

([Republican, February 18, 1909]: "Friday night between 75 and 100 people gathered at the Baldwin to witness plays and stunts. The large room on the second floor formerly occupied by the Christian Science Church was the location. This was the fourth of a series to be given."

([Evening Herald, March 2, 1909]: "The Baldwin Cafe is now ready for business. 21 meals for $5.25, single meals 35c, except Sunday dinner from 12 to 2, and from 6 to 8, which is served in courses. Meals also served a la carte. Excellent cuisine and the best of service."

([Republican, November 4, 1909]: "George T. Baldwin * * * refuses to say about his plans for a hotel * * *."

(Continuing the 1948 article on E. B. Hall, we find that "After two and one-half years at the Baldwin, Hall established the Hotel Hall at the corner of Fourth and Main Streets [now known as the Stevens Hotel—Editor].

(" 'I called it the Hotel Hall,' he recalled today, 'because while managing the Baldwin, many people kept calling me Mr. Baldwin. I decided to give the new hotel my own name to avoid such confusion. It worked.'

("Shortly after the White Pelican was built at Main and Esplanade [on the site of the present Balsiger Garage—Editor] Bert Hall took over its operation. He ran the White Pelican on a management and lease basis from 1913 to 1920, and during that period the remarkable hostelry became nationally famous. It burned a few years later.

("Bert Hall continued operation of the Hall Hotel while he was running the White Pelican."

(Hall probably severed his connections with the Baldwin sometime in 1912, as indicated by the following newspaper articles in part:

([Evening Herald, December 7, 1911]: "The Baldwin Hotel Cafe is closed, making it necessary for the guests of that well known hostelry to forage in divers and sundry places in the hope of striking what they want in the commissary line.

("The closing was rather sudden. The cafe has been operated by Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Pitzer in connection with the hotel, which is managed by E. B. Hall. The Pitzers knew the Halls way back in the palmy days when E. B. used to hit the high spots on a high bike in Colorado, and that was, let's see, way back in the early—

("But never mind that. The food's the thing. Friday afternoon the Pitzers decided to no longer cater to the Baldwin guests, and the notice given to the Halls was too sudden to permit them to fill the breach. But the guests are endeavoring to do this as best they may. In the mean time the management is taking the necessary steps to get the cafe in running order again."

([Republican, June 6, 1912]: "Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Hall who run the Baldwin, have leased the Livermore in the Witherow-Melhase building. Adjoining the building [Hall Hotel, now the Stevens—Editor] now under construction. Plans call for the building to be ready August 1st. The two buildings combined will then have 54 rooms."

(On Hall's departure from the Baldwin Hotel, Maude Baldwin became manager and so remained until Mr. and Mrs. Andy B. Moore became the owners in 1923.

(During Maude's tenure as manager, she maintained a photography darkroom on the top floor. Her darkroom sink and other signs of photo activities yet remain. Also off this room, in the unfinished attic, is where many of her glass plate negatives weer found several years ago. It was also during Maude's tenure as manager that her father, Geo. T. Baldwin died, June 4, 1920. It was from his heirs that the Andy Moores purchased the hotel.

(In the meantime, the [Republican, of June 13, 1912 reported]: "Geo. T. Baldwin is planning to move uptown and start another hardware store."

([Republican, September 26, 1912]: "The Baldwin Hardware is to move into the Witherow-Melhase building, downstairs, next to the Hall Hotel, which has the upstairs." At about this period of time, Baldwin evidently erected a large warehouse on a Southern Pacific siding, and facing on Spring Street. All excess and heavy merchandise, machinery and vehicles were kept at that place as long as the firm remained in business.

(At the present time, there is a movement on foot to have the Baldwin Hotel designated as an Oregon State Historical Landmark.

(The Klamath County Historical Society has proposed and asked Mart and Vera Jones for their permission and cooperation to set aside one day each year, for an annual "Social get-together," honoring our Klamath pioneers.

(Lastly, it has just recently been learned that Mr. and Mrs. Lewis F. Arnold of Route 2, Klamath Falls, who were married July 12, 1919, spent their wedding night in the Baldwin Hotel. They now plan on spending their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1969 at the same place.

(Another couple, Mr. and Mrs. C. William Burk, Curator of the Klamath County Museum, just recently spent a night at the Baldwin, celebrating their first wedding anniversary, August 14, 1967.

(These two couples may be starting a new trend for the grand old Baldwin Hotel.)

The White Pelican Hotel . . .

by Devere Helfrich

Probably the most magnicifent building ever erected in Klamath Falls was the White Pelican Hotel. It was located at the intersection of Main and Esplanade, the location now occupied by the Balsiger Motor Company.

The White Pelican Hotel was owned and had been built by the Klamath Development Company, at a cost of approximately $400,000. The building was one of the

The White Pelican Hotel at the corner of Main and Esplanade at an unknown date.
—Bert C. Thomas collection.

show places of Southern Oregon.

There has been some question as to when work on the hotel was commenced and when finished. Newspaper articles of the day should settle this doubt for all time.

The Evening Herald of July 7, 1910 states: "Ground was broken this morning on the new hotel that is to be erected at the junction of Main and the Esplanade. Under the direction of J. L. Cunningham, who has the contract for the building, sixteen head of horses were started on the work of excavating for the basement * * *."

The Klamath Republican of March 12, 1911 reported: "The complete plans and specifications of the 'White Pelican' hotel, which is being erected at the corner of Main street and Esplanade, were received yesterday, and are now at the drafting room of the Klamath Development companies office. D. F. MacDougall of San Francisco is the architect who furnished the plans and specifications.

"The building will have a frontage on Main street of 151½ feet, and 155 feet on the Esplanade. It will have a depth of 130 feet from the east corner of Main street to the alley. The foundation which is being built of concrete, is nearly half finished. All of the work is to be done by local workers and contractors.

"The hotel will be four stories and a basement, seven feet in the clear, with pressed brick fronts on Main and Esplanade. The walls will be constructed of Klamath county red brick. The triangular corner on Main and Esplanade will be finished with marble steps and a large vestibule, and two large store rooms will be provided for in this end of the building. The lobby of the hotel, which is near the center of the first floor, and is 38 x 54 feet, is reached by two wide entrances from each street. On either side of the main entrance is a waiting room and a ladies waiting room. A commodius grill and dining room, 43 x 55 feet, is located at the east end of the building, facing on Main street. The first floor also contains cigar and news stands, barber shop and other adjuncts of a modern hotel. The bar is located facing the Esplanade and adjoining

Dining room of the White Pelican Hotel. —F. M. Priest photo.

this is several commodius commercial sample rooms. Both passenger and freight elevators are to be installed to run from the basement to the top floor.

"The three upper floors contain 93 sleeping rooms, arranged in suites and singles, and the hotel will contain 31 baths, about one-half being furnished with the natural hot water from the springs, and the remainder with city water. All of the baths, toilets, etc., are finished with porcelain and marble. While the hotel will be what is known as a 'Class C' building, all of the interior finish and work will be of the best grade possible."

The Evening Herald of November 29, 1911 further reported: "A. R. Fredericks, head of the San Francisco furniture house of Joseph Fredericks company, is here looking after the installation of the furniture of the new White Pelican hotel * * *.

"Now the attractive brass beds are up, covered by big thick mattresses * * *. The dressers, chiffoniers, chairs and tables are being rapidly put in place, and lace curtains are going up also.

"Both the freight and passenger elevators are accepted, while the dumb waiters, speechlessly polite, which lower food from the kitchen to the basement and return the 'empties,' and carry drinkable to those who feel overdone in the Turkish baths, are ready when called on. The range in the kitchen is up and ready to be doing as well.

"Various members of the house staff, which will number about sixty all told * *. Chief Clerk E. H. Louser went to San Francisco for them * * *.

"A feature of the hotel service will be an electric auto bus, which will run from the depot to the hotel, driven by Andrew Waldheim, who is also the artist who drew designs for the regular cafe cards, the special dinner menus and the bottle labels which will be used by the hotel.

"An elegant, formal building, it will feature marble pillars, plush chairs and huge potted plants in the lobby and a swimming pool in the basement.

"An enormous electric sign, with letters several feet high, will surmount the front of the building, facing to the southwest, and when illuminated is expected to be not

The White Pelican Hotel electric bus parked at the Main Street entrance to the hotel. Automobile at right belonged to the Clapp Auto Co. —Bert C. Thomas collection.

only visible, but readable, for several miles."

Finally on December 2, 1911 the Evening Herald reported: "At 1:30 o'clock this afternoon the dedication of the new White Pelican Hotel, the most pretentious enterprise in this part of the country, and one of the finest hostelries on the Pacific coast was formerly christened.

"The ceremony, likewise the bottle, was in the keeping of Miss Louise Benson, daughter of Judge and Mrs. H. L. Benson of this city, and the breaking of the bottle against the hotel at the entrance by Miss Morrow was witnessed by a large number of invited guests, both from this city and Portland, San Francisco and other cities. All the officers of the Klamath Development Company, President S. O. Johnson, Vice-President G. X. Wendling, Treasurer W. Paul Johnson and Secretary D. O. Williams were on hand."

After nearly fifteen years of successful operation, seven years of which, 1913 to 1920, were under the managership of E. B. "Bert" Hall, the White Pelican Hotel was destroyed by fire, October 16, 1926. This event as reported by the Klamath News of October 17, 1926 was rewritten as a feature story in the Herald and News of July 17, 1966, and in part follows:

"'The White Pelican Hotel, the first building to herald the growth of Klamath Falls, was a smouldering mass of twisted steel and blackened stone and brick last night as the result of the fire which totally destroyed the $400,000 edifice yesterday * * *.

"'According to Mrs. Hope Kilbourne, who has been manager of the White Pelican for the past year and a half, the engineer, Dan Shafer, was working on the ammonia lines when a slight explosion occurred. Simultaneously another explosion

occurred in the basement, but Shafer was unable to detect the smoke through the mask he wore while repairing the ammonia line by the use of sulphur. Smoke in the basement was detected at 9 o'clock. At 9:30 the fire engines with full crews were on the scene.'

"Few flames were seen during the first hours of the blaze as the fire burned in the building's interior. Many onlookers were unaware of the seriousness of the fire.

"The newspaper article reported that the blaze in the basement 'swept toward the two elevator shafts which served as great suction pipes from the basement to the fourth floor. The third floor was filled with smoke, and the flames had broken out in the vicinity of the hall before smoke was noticeable in the lobby and dining room.'

"The account continued: 'At 11:30, when the fire appeared to have been suppressed, the flames crept between the brick walls and plaster, fed by the fir lacings that formed the strong wall of the hotel. The timbers were ready to drop.

" 'At noon bystanders on the north side of the building, cried out that the flames could been seen to lick the roof's sides and as if a huge vat of oil had been poured upon the roof, flames soared out from the cornices and skylights.'

"The newspaper reported that with the sight of the first flames, police moved the large crowd of onlookers away from the building. Firemen began playing water on surrounding buildings, including the Klamath Falls Creamery and Howie's Garage, the building now occupied by the Herald and News.

"The creamery's tar-paper roof caught fire but was controlled by the firemen.

"The newspaper article noted: 'With the walls still standing in the hotel, the interior was gutted and all hope for saving a timber or brick of the building was abandoned by Fire Chief Keith Ambrose's men. Their attention was then diverted to the neighboring buildings which were protected in a commendable manner.

" 'The first wall of the huge building to collapse was the north wing above the kitchen which was a red hot furnace while a fan, which revolved naturally with the draft, fanned the flames to white heat.

" 'The v-shaped corner of the building facing on Main and Esplanade, was the last to collapse and the east wall preceded it by 15 minutes. Fortunately for Howie's Garage, the wall did not fall directly across the street but jack-knifed so that the greater portion fell into the ruins. The room on the third floor, which Mrs. Kilbourne occupied, presented one of the most weird complexes which arose around the tragic fire. Flames had gutted the fourth floor, and the second floor, but the windows showed no signs of the unusual, and not until the flagpole tottered as the signal for the final collapse, did the room burst into flames and with a roar, totter to earth with tons of debris.'

"Despite the total destruction caused by the fire there were no deaths or serious injuries even though the hotel had 150 registered guests and 33 employes at the time.

"Only five residents of the hotel were in their beds when the fire broke out and all easily made it to safety. However, considerable personal belongings were lost.

"Klamath Falls' other hotels filled up immediately as the 'homeless guests' scrambled for other quarters. The Willard and Anchor hotels were under construction at the time but were not finished.

"The newspaper reported heavy traffic on the trains and stages out of town as some of the hotel patrons apparently headed for nearby towns for accommodations. The Klamath Development Co., arranged for Southern Pacific to bring in two Pullman cars to house some of the burned-out guests.

"The same article which described the fire quoted the local representative of the Klamath Development Co., as saying a new hotel would be built. But, of course, it never was.

"The Balsiger Motor Co. purchased the property a few years later.

"Linkville Trolley" headed west on Main Street between Sixth and Seventh. American Hotel at right. Tall building at left, at the southwest corner of Seventh and Main. Charley Adams the driver.

"The Linkville Trolley" . . .

Research and Compilation

by Devere Helfrich

The story of the "Linkville Trolley" has been written up at least four times in the past. First by Doris Palmer Payne, sometime between 1938 and 1940; Second, by Rachael Applegate Good, in the History of Klamath County, 1941; Third, by Edith Rutenic McLeod, March 15, 1954 in the Herald and News; and Fourth, by Floyd L. Wynne, February 24, 1963 in the Herald and News

The second and third writings add very little to the first and seem to be based strictly on the Payne article, and none of the three give any of their sources for information quoted. Wynne's article in turn, includes the Payne article, but adds information gained from old newspapers. In as much as the "Linkville Trolley" was installed in 1906, and the newspaper files from April 1st to October 31st, inclusive, of that year, are missing, we have no other source material available for that period of time, except the Payne article, which was evidently based on reminiscences of one or more persons and cannot be authenticated at this late date.

The "Linkville Trolley" history in this issue of *Klamath Echoes* will use the Floyd L. Wynne story in part with the Payne article added, in addition to newspaper

articles found by the Editor of this annual.

When the name "Linkville Trolley" was first applied is not known, but it was evidently after it had ceased to operate. In fact, the car seems to have been resurrected for a parade at some unknown date, and it was at that time, that the title "Linkville Trolley" was painted on its sides. Also at the same time, probably the original flanged wheels were replaced with flat, wagon-type, iron tires, so that the trolley could be pulled at random on the streets. These last are the only remaining parts of the trolley and can be seen at the Klamath County Museum.

Furthermore, the car was never used as an electric trolley, as originally planned and promised, anytime during its life on the streets of Klamath Falls, 1906-1910. It was strictly a horse drawn affair at all times, two mostly, but four during inclement weather. It had originally served as a trolley on Sutter Street in San Francisco, as proven by the title on its sides in old photos.

Floyd L. Wynne's article, in part, with documented additions, follows:

The population explosion hit Klamath Falls in 1906-1907.

After the excitement engendered by the Modoc Indian War of 1872, the town had lapsed back into its commonplace existence as a town of hardy pioneers dependent upon the stock raisers of the area mainly for its commerce.

The effects of irrigation had already been explored, but not to any great extent. However, after 1900 arrived, the Klamath Canal Company made an enlarged effort at irrigation and prospects for farming in the area began to blossom.

Simultaneously, there was talk of timber development with big companies moving into the area to secure timber stands for future development.

These developments, in turn, brought talk of a railroad that would end the isolation of the Klamath Basin. Each month brought new rumors, and new reports of rail lines headed for the Klamath country.

In the meantime, the two main routes in or out of the area were torturous ones indeed. One could go by stage or boat to Keno, by stage from there to Pokegama

A remodeled "Linkville Trolley" that did not run on rails. Probably rejuvenated for a parade around 1930 or before. —Bert C. Thomas collection.

where they could meet the rail line. Or, one could go by steamer to Laird's Landing on the south end of Lower Klamath Lake and make railroad connection near there.

Into this setting came the promoters, the developers.

The Klamath Canal Company purchased and began to promote the Buena Vista Addition, lying north in the California Avenue area now, and up along the lake on Front Street.

Another company, known as the Klamath Development Company, or KD Company, purchased what is now the Hot Springs area and began to promote this area.

In 1906, the KD Company applied to the council for authority to operate a trolley car which would travel from downtown to the Hot Springs area.

All following articles enclosed by parenthesis are by the Editor.

(Klamath Republican, June 1, 1905: "Hot Springs property sold. $100,000 price paid. Valuable property to be platted and improved. Electric car line contemplated. * * * Corporation known as the Hot Springs Improvement Company, has become owner of 540 acres of land adjacent to Klamath Falls, formerly owned by W. A. Wright and Major Worden.

"A petition has already been framed to be presented to the Town Council asking for a franchise for an electric street railroad line through the city. This petition will not be presented at once as it is the intention of the promoters to build only in case the Government begins work on their irrigation project and the railroad is built. The street car line will probably run through the city and through the hot springs property and connect with navigation on the upper lake.")

(Klamath Republican, June 8, 1905: "Klamath Falls is to have a street railway. A franchise for that purpose was passed to the second reading by the city council at an adjourned meeting last evening. The franchise provides that the road must be started and completed within one year from date of the completion of the steam railroad to this city, which will be two years hence.

"The franchise is to be granted to A. H. Naftzger and was petitioned by Col. W. H. Holabird. Both of these gentlemen are connected with the Klamath Development Company, which is to build the steam railroad into Klamath Falls.")

(Klamath Republican, July 13, 1905: "The ordinance granting A. H. Naftzger and his assigns a franchise for a period of fifty years to construct and operate a single or double track street railway through certain streets in the city of Klamath Falls, passed its third and last reading at a special meeting of the town council on Monday night. The ordinance provides that construction must be commenced on the street railway before March 31, 1907, and after commencement the work must proceed without delay.")

The Klamath Canal Company countered in 1906, by also asking for a franchise to operate a trolley car, * * *.

(Klamath Republican, January 11, 1906: "C. N. Hawkins and W. K. Brown left yesterday morning for California, where they go to place their orders and make arrangements for the construction of a street car system for the city of Klamath Falls.

"The City Council granted to C. N. Hawkins and his assigns, a franchise for the construction and operation of a street car system over the following streets: Beginning at the northerly end of Prospect avenue to Tenth street, thence southeasterly along Tenth street to Washington; thence southwesterly along Washington to Ninth street; thence along Ninth street to Pine street; thence along Pine street to Seventh street; thence along Seventh street to Walnut avenue; thence along Walnut avenue to Third street; thence along Third street to Main street; thence along Main street to Conger avenue; thence along Conger avenue to its northern terminus. Also beginning at the intersection of Sixth street and Walnut avenue; thence southeasterly

along Sixth to Elm avenue; thence southwesterly along Elm avenue to the terminus of same.

"The Board of County Commissioners also granted to C. N. Hawkins, a franchise for his street railway through the streets of Fairview addition, which is without the corporate limits of the city.

"The franchise granted by the city is nearly identical in wording with one granted to A. H. Naftzger, with the exception of the streets to be traveled, and one provision allowing the use of the track on Main street to other companies. The only place where the route in the two franchises conflict, is on Main street, from Third street to Conger avenue. If arrangements are not made between the two companies, a double track will have to be put in. The Hawkins franchise provides that work shall commence by July 1, 1906 and to be completed within eighteen months.")

In mid-March of 1906 work commenced on the $4,500,000 government canal by the Mason Davis Company, including the digging of the 3100 foot long tunnel. Meantime, the Klamath Canal Company announced grandiose plans for eight miles of boulevards, a huge tourist hotel and a boat-house on the lake.

Meantime, the council had stipulated that the first company to lay its rails on Main Street would be able to collect usage money from the other company for the Main Street rails since they would permit only the one set of rails on Main Street.

(We will now let Doris Palmer Payne take up the story—Editor.)

"Two rival factions arose in 1904-1905 in the form of the Klamath Development Company, interested in promoting the Hot Springs section of town, and the Klamath Canal Company, whose fortune lay in the growth of the Buena Vista addition northwest of the city. Although both companies were controlled by outside capital, the chief local actors in the street railway drama were Major Charles Worden and D. B. Campbell of the K. D. Company and William K. Brown representing their competitors. Among projected developments, each faction envisioned the establishment of a street railway to serve its side of town, thus enhancing its attractiveness to prospective buyers. The city fathers perhaps saw in this a means of postponing the paving of roads, always notoriously muddy in wet weather. At any rate, they were eager to see such an improvement and granted franchises to both companies, with the stipulation that rails laid on Main Street were to be used in common; but that the company getting their rails laid first was to receive payment for such use from the other company. That's all it took to prompt each faction to swear by all the gods that it would not be on the paying end of the proposition. Feeling became so intense that Major Worden bet Bill Brown $500 that the K. D. Company would get their rails in first. Brown called him and the money was put up.

"From then on the greatest secrecy surrounded all operations. Campbell approached the Kirkpatrick brothers, who were grading streets for him in Hot Springs, and asked them to have several six-horse teams ready to start at any time on a four or five-day trip. Finally one morning he ordered them to hitch up, but refused to tell them, until well on their way, that they were bound for Grass Lake after railroad iron. With equal precautions, Brown hired a teamster, J. M. McIntire, to haul rails from Pokegama for the Klamath Falls Land and Transportation Company, a subsidiary of the Klamath Canal Company. All this secrecy was ineffective, however, for each side, through its 'spies' knew just what the other was doing. Brown soon realized that nothing short of drastic action would prevent him from losing the bet. Thereupon, he dispatched a messenger (Bob Hunsaker, according to Edith McLeod—Editor) with instructions to meet the outfit coming from Grass Lake and see if there was anything he could do about their progress. There was. He convinced them that the worst road around a certain lake (Orr Lake, near Bray, California—Editor) was

Four McIntyre freight teams arriving in Klamath Falls with rails from Pokegama, for the new trolley. Late spring of 1906. Old Lakeside Inn on Link River in the center background.
—Courtesy Klamath County Museum.

the best. They accepted his advice gratefully—and mired down hopelessly in the spring mud. In their feverish efforts to extricate themselves, one of their finest lead stallions 'pulled himself to pieces,' dropped in the harness and died a few hours later from the strain. Not waiting for the rails to arrive, Brown hired every available man and at 12:00 Saturday night started tearing up Main Street and laying ties. All next day and well into Monday they worked, sometimes with two or three crews to the block. Since it was Sunday, no legal injunction could stop them. The climax came when McIntire's four teams came rumbling in with the rails, to the uncontrollable jubilation of some and the snorting disgust of others. The $500 was Brown's!

"Much has been written of the operation of the horsecar, from which the Toonerville Trolley cartoonist could well take some tips. But its heyday came to an inglorious official end when municipal ownership advocates came into power in the city. In 1910 they passed an ordinance to repeal all ordinances granting railway franchises to private enterprise. And what is left to show for it all? In Moore Park sits what remains of the horse-car, pathetically awaiting the day when a projected $400 of WPA money for its reconstruction is approved. Nearby is a section of rail, unearthed several feet below the present surface of Main Street during Copco operations in 1938. Along the old route the car followed out California Avenue to Front Street, embedded beneath the surface for the most part, are sandstone markers about six inches square and a foot and a half long with a cross chiseled into the top. Apparently, that is all."

(It has long been this Editor's contention that the rails for the "Linkville Trolley" came from the Pokegama Sugar Pine Lumber Company railroad between Old Pokegama, Snow and the top of the log chute into the Klamath River. The Pokegama road was abandoned in 1903, the rails were rusting away on the site, and the rails of the trolley line are the same size as those at Pokegama. They were available, so why look farther afield—Editor.)

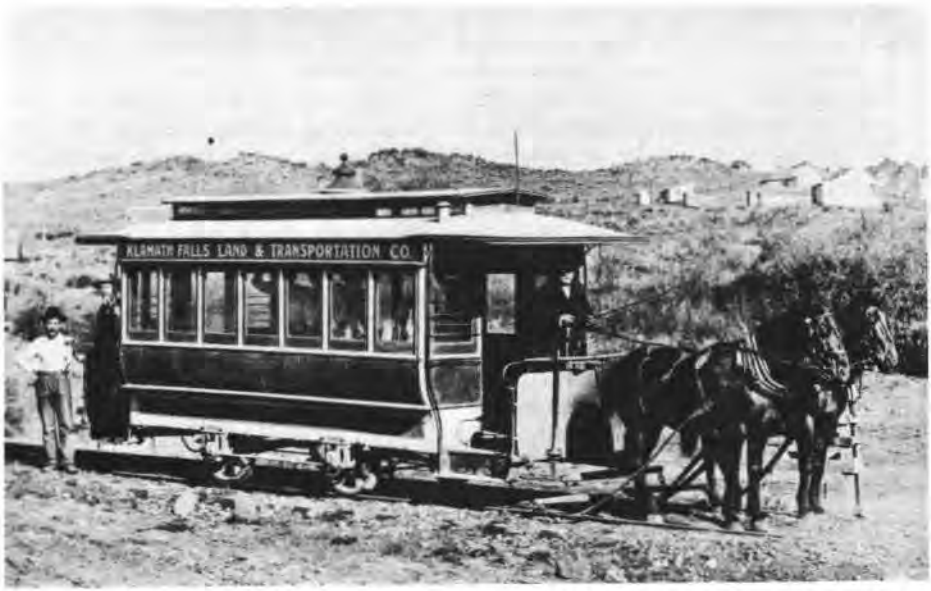
(Klamath Republican, November 1, 1906: "A large force of men and teams commenced work on the street car line this week and the work will be vigorously persecuted until the track is completed through the entire Hot Springs Addition." [This would seem to indicate that a street car bed, never used, was at least partially constructed into or toward the Hot Springs Addition—Editor.]

(Klamath Republican, January 10, 1907: Buena Vista Addition add: "Street car line is built to the addition and will soon be operated.")

(Klamath Republican, February 21, 1907: "The manager of the Klamath Falls Land and Transportation Company has completed arrangements for balasting the tracks of his electric line and work is now under way. The rock for the purpose is being secured from the Mason-Davis crusher.")

(Klamath Republican, April 18, 1907: "The first street car to be operated in this city was run from the corner of Main street and Conger avenue last Saturday afternoon [April 13th—Editor] under the direction of Mr. Buell of the Klamath Land and Transportation Company. While it was an improvised affair it sufficed to carry nearly twenty guests of Mr. Buell to the Upper lake where they enjoyed a ride on the new Buena Vista launch. * * * Work of ballasting the track commenced this week and will be pushed to completion as rapidly as possible.")

(Klamath Republican, May 2, 1907: "J. L. Buell is going to carry into effect his promise to give this city a street car service at an early date, and in accordance therewith a car is expected to arrive in



"Linkville Trolley" headed south on California Avenue, somewhere north of the intersection with Conger. Charley Adams driver.

this city one day this week. It was purchased in San Francisco when Mr. Buell made his last trip down there. He went to San Francisco Monday for the purpose of investigating the merits of a gasoline car. These are a recent creation and are made in two sizes. It is his intention to purchase one with a capacity of nine passengers, provided the representations of the agent were correct. In the meantime the car that is to arrive this week will be placed in service and when the gasoline car arrives it will be placed on the line for the purpose of giving quick service between here and the lake.

"Plans and specifications are being prepared for a forty-foot suspension bridge across the government canal at the headgates. As soon as this is completed the car line will be extended to the docks and then all excursion parties and other travel will have a quick, easy and inexpensive way of reaching this famous body of water.")

(Klamath Republican, June 20, 1907: "The first streetcar to reach this city was brought in Saturday [June 15th—Editor] by R. E. Hunsaker and has attracted a great deal of attention. O. A. Stearns took time by the forelock and boarded the car at his home and paid his fare for the privilege. It is the intention of Manager Buell to place the car at the disposal of the Fourth of July committee and the service will be inaugurated on the National Holiday.")

(Klamath Republican, June 20, 1907: " * * * Council meeting, last Monday [June 17th—Editor] * * * The question as to whether the street car company would put in the tracks to grade, or lay them on the surface of the street as at present existing was a bone of contention that consumed considerable time. It was finally decided that it lay the tracks to grade and that the rest of the street be lowered accordingly.")

(Klamath Republican, June 27, 1907: "Fourth of July will see the inauguration of the first street car service in this city. Manager Buell of the Buena Vista Company has turned over to the Fourth of July Committee the street car that has just been received by his company with the instructions that it is to inaugurate the service on the Fourth, and accordingly arrangements are being made to do so. It is admittedly a distinctive event in one's life to ride on the first car ever operated in a city, and therefore a good deal of wire pulling may be expected by those seeking the honor. In order to prevent any discrimination the committee has decided to issue souvenir tickets which will be sold for $1.50 each. These tickets will entitle the holder to ride on the first trip made by the car, and will entitle those participating to truthfully state that they 'rode on that are car the first trip it ever made in this city.' R. M. Richardson will act as motorman, engineer, pilot or something of that sort, and Dr. Martin will be there with that pleasant smile and polite bow of his and say in his most winning manner 'Fare, please.' That it will be an event worth participating in goes without saying.")

(Klamath Republican, July 11, 1907: "The street car, gaily decorated played an important part in the parade, it being the first time a car had traversed the streets of this city.")

(Klamath Republican, July 18, 1907: "The street car now runs to the junction of Conger and California avenues. The service will be maintained throughout the day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., running on a fifteen minute schedule. It will leave Conger and California avenues on the hour and half hour; and Seventh street on quarter and three-quarter hour.")

(Klamath Republican, August 8, 1907: "Street car service to the Upper Lake was inaugurated Tuesday. A definite schedule has not as yet been arranged. For the present cards will be placed on the sides of the car announcing when the trip will be made. This extension will undoubtedly result in a considerable increase in the receipts and ought to prove quite attractive to those who might desire to make a flying trip to the Upper Lake.")

(Klamath Republican, September 26, 1907: "A new set of wheels were received this week for the street car, and it is likely it will not take to the roadway so often as it has.")

(Klamath Republican, March 4, 1909: "E. R. Reames, who returned this week from Hollister, from a conference with his associates, Messrs. Hawkins and Brown, has announced that these gentlemen will be in this city about the middle of March, when final plans will be perfected for the construction of an extension of the street car line from its present terminus, Sixth and Main Streets to the depot, a distance of about a mile. This is the first announcement that has been made indicating the activity that is to prevail in this city during the coming spring and summer, an activity that is to continue until Klamath Falls is a city of metropolitan size. It is the intention of Mr. Reames and his associates to either electrify the line or place in operation a motor car. In either case two cars will be operated.")

(Klamath Republican, July 29, 1909: "No decision reached over street car affairs—There seems to be a hitch in the electrifying of the street car system and how long it will tie up matters cannot be stated at this time. It seems that matters have taken such a turn that it may be necessary for the Klamath Falls Land and Transportation Company to erect a power plant of its own in order to secure power at a price it can afford. In the meanwhile it is likely that a gasoline motor car will be installed.")

(The Evening Herald, November 6, 1909: "Monday morning the Klamath Land and Transportation Co., will start their rock crusher and will fill in their track and two feet of the street on either side of the track with crushed rock, and so do away with most of the mud and water.")

(The Evening Herald, December 1, 1909: 'W. K. Brown is here to consult with President Reames about plans 'for conversion of the street car line into an electric system.' ")

(The situation as it was then constituted is quite adequately summed up by Floyd Wynne in the closing paragraphs of his article:)

The streetcar was inaugurated, horse-powered, and was destined for an early demise by a combination of events. The KD Company, having lost the race of the rails, did not follow through with trolley of its own. Instead, it pushed the paving of roads in the Hot Springs area, promoting its development vigorously and in 1911 scoring the crowning triumph with the construction of the White Pelican Hotel.

The little horse-drawn streetcar, meantime, found itself hard pressed for customers and bedeviled by the weather and the muddy streets.

It would run to the end of the line where the horses were unhitched, taken around to the other end and hitched up for the return trip.

The city frequently asked the company to modernize its horsecar and convert it into an electric trolley. Despite frequent promises of good intentions, the company failed to improve beyond the two-horse stage.

Finally in 1910 the city administration issued an ultimatum to the company to modernize or else with the result that the city cancelled the franchise and found itself in the trolley business. It lasted only a short time, however, and the city junked the system.

(The Evening Herald, May 10, 1911: "Work was started yesterday on tearing up the old street car rails and ties on Conger avenue, by the purchasers of the Buena Vista addition and the property of the Klamath Falls Land and Transportation company. As soon as the tracks are removed the city will put on its big grader and the street will be leveled and put in good shape.

"Linkville Trolley" headed east on Main in front of the Hurn Hardware, now the site of the Star Drug. Charley Adams driver. Date, July 4, 1910. —Bert C. Thomas collection.

("Conger avenue is the natural driveway to the Upper Lake, but on account of its narrowness and the obstruction of the old track, most of the travel has been compelled to follow other roads. The tracks were left in last year for the purpose of allowing the paving contractors to use the track in hauling gravel for street work, but most of the material this year will have to be hauled from the new quarry across the river.")

(The Evening Herald, December 14, 1911: "H. E. Pointer vs. Klamath Falls Land & Transportation Co. * * * Pointer, it appears, was riding in his wagon across the street car track of the defendant in the good old days when the single 'hoss' car plodded its weary way homeward or otherwise, up and down Main street. The jar of striking the car track upset Pointer, and a broken patella, or kneecap, resulted, for which damage he sued.

"The $2,500 settlement is for just $250 less than the old verdict was to have secured to the plaintiff.

"The settlement was agreed at a conference out of court.")

(In summing up the history of the "Linkville Trolley," one man only seems to have been the conductor, driver, motorman or what have you, Charley Adams, the street car teamster.

(The K. D. Company seems to have built some street car road-bed, but never laid any rails. What ever became of the rails stuck in the mud, if this actually happened, at Orr Lake, has never been told to our knowledge.

(Lastly, the tracks of the Klamath Falls Land and Transportation Company street car line as finally completed, did not follow the line as set down in the original franchise. They led from the Southern Pacific railroad depot, north along Spring Street to Main, west full length of Main to Conger, north on Conger to California, continuing northerly along California to Front and along Front to the boat docks at approximately the Pelican Marina of today, which is opposite the brick house at 935 Front Street.)

"Linkville Trolley" deteriorating back of the old Holland Hotel on Klamath Avenue during the late 1930's. Another historic landmark that "went to pot." Note the wheels.
—Bert C. Thomas collection.

The Elks Temple . . .

by Devere Helfrich

With public interest high in the proposed acquirement of the Elks Temple as a County Museum, it is thought to be an appropriate time to give a brief history of the building and events leading up to its construction. In compiling the history, of necessity, some lodge history is recorded, and, in addition, brief mention will also be given of other institutions and buildings.

In the beginning, an article in the Klamath Republican of February 4, 1909, informs us that: "An Antler's Club was organized Sunday (Jan. 31, 1909—Editor) by about thirty-five members of the Elks Lodge. The club was organized for the purpose of social benefit, only Elks being eligible to membership. The club has secured the old library room in the Page-Stratton building and are having the same fitted up. The following were elected officers of the club: T. A. K. Fassett, president; W. J. Brennan, secretary; and G. Heitkemper, Jr., treasurer." Moving spirit in the formation of the Antler's Club was C J. Ferguson, who had moved here from Pendleton, Oregon.

The Page-Stratton building is the one presently occupied by the Van Fleet Electric Co. at 200 Main Street, opposite the Willard Hotel. It was first occupied by the Klamath Falls Women's Library Club

on December 12, 1904. Later, in 1907-8, the Library secured the Methodist Church, built in 1900, on the southwest corner of the courthouse block, where they remained until the present city library was built in 1927. Later, around the 1911 period it was occupied by the First Trust and Savings Bank.

This latter site of the Library on the courthouse block had formerly been occupied by the first City Hall, initially used by the city fathers March 5, 1900. This building in turn was moved in about 1907 to the southeast corner of the courthouse block and its site then became available for the library building as above described.

The Herald and News of June 30, 1939, in an article by Malcolm Epley continues the early Elks history in part as follows: "Almost immediately the members of the club (Antler's) began talking of forming a lodge. Rules required that any city wherein an Elks lodge is located must have a population of 5000. The 1910 census the year before had shown Klamath Falls with a population of 2758.

"Undaunted, the Klamath men began making their own census. The town was divided into squares and a count started. The Elks determination to give the town 5000 people gave rise to many a story. One was that the Elks even counted the tombstones in Linkville Cemetery."

However, regardless of how they did it, the lodge was chartered July 12, 1911. Shortly thereafter, the Elks Lodge moved into new quarters, upstairs in the frame building then standing on the northeast corner of Fourth and Klamath, above the Virgil & Sons Furniture Store.

Following the vacation of the Page-Stratton rooms by the Antler's Club, they in turn were soon occupied by the City Hall offices as recorded by the Evening Herald of October 11, 1911: "City Recorder T. F. Nicholas, the entire contents of the old council chamber, with safe, records and furniture is now installed in the old Antler's Club rooms in the Page-Stratton building."

As the Elks Lodge expanded, a home of their own was desired. Two sites were considered, one at Third and Main, the other at Seventh and Main. Large cottonwood trees on the Third and Main site proved to be the clincher for that site. On April 11, 1912 the trustees entered into a contract with Alex Martin, Jr., to purchase the site on which sat the Martin home, later moved to Pine Street between Second and Third streets, and still standing at 317 Pine. Ironically, the cottonwood trees that brought the Temple to the site, were later cut down, as their roots were interferring with the piping systems.

The corner stone of the Elks Temple was laid at 11 p.m. on a bright moonlight night, Saturday, April 17, 1915. By December 23, 1915, the Temple was ready for use, and was immediately occupied.

The Herald and News of June 30, 1939 described the building as follows: "The brick lodge boasts a wide front porch, with white columns extending to the eaves. Inside on the lower floor are comfortable club rooms, secretary's office, and a buffet room, as well as a ladies' reception room.

"In the basement is a large dining hall, with adequate kitchen facilities. Game tables also are to be found in this part of the building.

"On the second floor is the large, attractive lodge room, which is air-conditioned, and boasts one of the finest hardwood floors in the community. On this floor also is a ladies' lounge, fitted with modernistic furniture resting on deep rugs. This room is attractively finished in knotty pine."

Recently, when it was learned that the Elks were to build a new building overlooking the Upper Klamath Lake, it was suggested that the old Temple be secured by the County for a museum. Nothing, however, along this line was accomplished until the late winter of 1967, when the Klamath County Historical Society prepared a number of the following petitions, which were circulated mainly in Klamath Falls:

"We, the undersigned Klamath County,

Oregon, citizens, respectfully petition your honorable body of Klamath County, Oregon Commissioners to take action by way of investigation, study, inquiry and research as to the advisability, justification, and desirability of negotiating and taking steps to secure title to the present realty of Elks Lodge of Klamath Falls, Oregon, known and described as Lots 3, 4, 5, and 6, of Block 18 of the original town of Klamath Falls, Klamath County, Oregon as a site to be used as a County owned Historical Museum; the following named organizations sponsor such acquisition and urge action to such undertaking, to-wit: Klamath County Historical Society; Klamath County Museum Associates; and Klamath Echoes."

The above petitions bearing 967 signatures of individuals, were presented to the Klamath County Board of Commissioners on April 4, 1967.

A committee was appointed to examine the condition of the building, consisting of the following men: John W. Merryman, a mechanical engineer, chairman; Eldon Alt, a building contractor; Warren Parr, a building contractor; Wendell Smith, operator of the Klamath Falls Brick & Tile Co.; Richard Gallagher, manager of the East Side Electric, Inc.; and Robert Friesen of Friesen Plumbing & Heating Co.

In their report, as written by the Herald and News of May 30, 1937, "Merryman noted that the building was constructed in 1915 with an addition built in 1952. The three-story edifice is 110 by 50 feet with a 25 by 67 foot addition." Also further written by the Herald and News, the "Study Committee Likes Old Elks Lodge For County Museum," and further thought it "would be a good investment for the county."

The new Elks Lodge, overlooking Upper Klamath Lake, built at a cost of approximately $470,000, opened its doors for the first time at 10 a.m. on July 26, 1967.

At this writing the old Elks Temple at 305 Main still remains the property of the Elks Lodge.

Elks Temple at the corner of Third and Main. Will it too, be destroyed like the Pelican Theatre?

Klamath County Historical Society trek cars parked on Topsy Grade, August 6, 1967.
—Photo by Helen Helfrich.

Topsy Grade Trek . . .

A Klamath Historical Society Centennial Event, led by Devere Helfrich and Vera Clemmens

by Dorothy Teater

On August 6, 1967, at 8:00 A.M., a group of interested people met at the parking lot across Klamath Avenue from the County Library. About 40 cars and 106 people came, so Devere sent them on ahead to regroup at Chase Station, west of Keno, just off the Hiway near Klamath River, a stage station on the site of the abandoned Applegate Trail. In the early 80's George Chase and Ab Giddings, both stage drivers, set up a stage and freight stopping place there. Rates were 25c a nite per person and 25c a meal.

At Chicken Hill we were told that it came by its name because, when the Tom Way family passed here, their wagons laden with household goods and on top a crate of chickens, the box fell off when the wagon hit a chuck hole and the chickens scattered. The Way children chased the chickens thru the rocks and brush to catch them.

The cars spread out to keep out of the dust. First stop was at Topsy, a former post office and stopping place. It was originally owned by a man by the name of Major Overton.

A colored lady showed up to do the

washing and other chores of the men. Her name was Topsy, so that's how Topsy Grade and post office got its name. All the cars stopped on the grade to view the Klamath River and canyon. Vera Clemmens gave a history of her father's work in building the road.

Mr. Frain worked on the grade for Bob Emmit, the first job he'd ever had working for someone else, and Mr. Emmitt told him he was the best man he had on the job, quite a compliment for a 17 year old boy.

The present Topsy Grade was the third grade to be built out of the canyon. Frank Picard built the first, and George Ager the second. The third grade was built in 1887 by Bob Emmitt and a crew of 60 men.

At the foot of the grade, across the road from the old school house, still standing, was where the Frain mail-box stood. On the same side, the old log school was located in which Vera Frain Clemmens went to school in the 6th grade. Nearby is "Robber's Rock," where the stage was robbed many times. The road came up the hill and was an easy spot to watch the stage coming.

The drive down into Vera's old home place was a pretty drive thru the oak trees to the river. Just inside the gate one could see the traces of an old Indian village, the holes dug for the teepees were easily seen. Across the river another Indian village had been located.

Vera's home stood on higher ground than the barns and other out-buildings. The first home had been torn down years before to make room for a larger house, which had burned years later.

Vera told of a time the high water took out the bridge. A big tree washed down the river as her Dad stood and watched it take out the bridge. The horses were stranded on the other side. The Frains had no way of plowing the garden, so her Dad pulled the plow and her Mother guided it. This way they plowed an acre of garden.

Next stop was the Kerwin ranch. The barn and out buildings have fallen in over the years. In those early years Mrs. Kerwin was very hospitable and came out with tea and cake for the weary travelers, if they didn't care to come inside. The freight wagons started out real early in the morning, so as to get up Topsy Grade when it was cool. They unhitched the wagons and took them up one at a time, as the grade was so steep.

At the Way Cemetery, we observed where the Frain relatives, Vera's grandfather, Mart Frain and her uncle, Ed Way, are buried. Also relatives of Bill Hoover, who is a resident in the canyon and was along on the tour. The cemetery is on the Way property.

The Way stage and freight station handled all types of business on the road. Mrs. Way came to know the freight bells and would know what outfit was coming by their sound.

On the trek we didn't make an official stop there, just to see that all the cars were on their way out of the Way cemetery.

The California-Oregon line was crossed at the lower end of the Way field.

From here on, the road into Beswick got very rough and rocky. Our two leading pick-ups went on ahead, but when we didn't see any dust behind us we stopped, had a refreshing cool drink and waited. Soon the cars came around the bend and we found one car had lost its tail-pipe twice and the men stopped to repair it.

On into Klamath Hot Springs, at the mouth of Shovel creek, a post office, freight and stage stop. As a hot springs and fishing resort it was also known as Beswick. The three-story hotel built of native stone, burned over 50 years ago. The stones were later used to build a round pavilion, on the same site as the hotel. Now the pavilion is wrecked, but parts of the walls remain. Behind the pavilion along Klamath river were the hot springs, covered by a wooden structure. The old swimming pool and bath house still stands, out in a field of grain.

Advertising on an old poster recalls memories of many old times: "Open all year, Klamath Hot Springs, Beswick, Siskiyou Co., Cal. Twenty miles from Ager on the California-Oregon route. Elevation 2700 ft. Scenery unsurpassed. Fine climate. Hotel located at junction of Shovel Creek with Klamath. Shaded walks and drives. Hunting and fishing. For particulars regarding transportation, write to Edson Bros., Props. Steam, natural mineral and mud baths. Sunset telephone connections with all Pacific Coast points."

All cars stopped here at Beswick to look around and snap pictures.

An old building in a state of collapse was a dance hall and billiard parlor. Vera told us she had many good times there in her girlhood. The original hotel, a wooden structure, still stands on the south side of the road and is still occupied.

Driving on, one can look across the river and see a cave, near which stood the second home of the Frains in the canyon.

Across the river, a half mile below the Hot Springs resort you can see what is left of the old log chute built in the early 90's, to carry logs from the end of a logging railroad to the Klamath river below, to be driven down the river 20 miles to the mill at Klamathon, near the present Hornbrook.

A short distance on, to the left of the road, the old Oak Grove school house is still standing.

A pleasant stop at the Lou Hessig ranch to eat lunch on their lovely lawn was enjoyed by all. Formerly the Spannus ranch and before that the Truitt place, it had originally been the first Frain home location. The building in which an old saloon had been located, still stands on the south side of the road.

The first stop after lunch was at the old Calkins' place, later Sharp's and lastly owned by Wm. Spannus. A beautiful old spool screen door is in place on the porch of an old two-story house. An antique dealer would treasure this door.

The next stop was opposite the Otto ranch house site. An old steel bridge still stands, but isn't in use anymore. It was moved there in 1916 from farther downstream. Two of the "Otto girls" pointed out the location of their old home, across the river. They are now, Mrs. Minnie Truax of McDoel, Cal. and Mrs. Ethel Sargent, Dorris, Cal. Both sisters were born on the place. Their father once had a store at the site of the Hessig ranch.

We all stopped at McClintocks, a stage stop from Ager. At this stop, the one and only flat tire appeared, on Bob Mason's car, but was changed in a few minutes. Near this place but off the present road was the old Bogus station. No stop was made and it was not seen.

Not much remains of the Ager terminus on the Southern Pacific line. Freight wagons used to load up here for the long rough trip over the grade. The hotel still stands but is used as a private home.

From Ager cars departed for home, some going via Ashland and others to Montague and back by Hiway 97 to Klamath Falls.

Those known to have made the trek were:

Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Davidson, A. C. Yaden, Mr. and Mrs. N. S. Brown, Ray Roberts, P. E. Stiles, Susie Booth, Georgia Booth, Nora Page, Mr. and Mrs. Lisecki, Mrs. Annie Olive Brant, Mrs. Blanche Morgan, Mrs. Frances Alderdice, Mr. and Mrs. Troy Qualls, Mr. and Mrs. Leo E. Adams, Ruth and Heber Radcliffe, O. H. Osborne, Mr. and Mrs. Wendall Smith, Serena Weaver, Russ P. Smith, Nancy H. Smith, Rodney M. Smith, Ira Orem, Mrs. Ira Orem, Rowena McDonald, Vera Clemmens, Lester Hutchinson, Marion Jamison, Jeanne MacBeth, Ray Buckingham, Diana Johnston, Janet Houck, Rosemary Dennis, Agnes Oliver, Gary Price, Mina Price, Geo. Price, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Van Buskirk, John Edmundson, Edna Edmunson, Max Benedict, Johnny Benedict, Harold Alsop, Louise Alsop, Ricky Alsop, Kathy Alsop, Ruby McCall, Bill Hoover, Eva Dickson, Mrs. E. H. Tillman, Jeff Hankins, Rich. Hessig, Robt. Hessig, Geo. H. Olson, Fran-

ces May Olson, Ted and Ruby Johnson, Minnie Truax, Ethel Sargent, Carmen Hadwick, Ruth King, A. J. King, Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Johnson, Ralph and Edna Russell, Nel Smith, Cy Smith, Bob Mason, Dick Teater, Dorothy Teater, Mrs. Moak, Mary Robertson, Devere Helfrich, Helen Helfrich, Bob Elliott, Pauline Elliott, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Baldwin, (4 people from Silverton, Oregon), Lois Enman, Jerry Enman, Christie Enman, Bill Kinsey, Carol Kinsey, Kevin Kinsey, Kristina Kinsey, Ray Cummings, Perry Cummings, R. C. Cummings, Neva Cummings, Scott Cummings, Ronnie Cummings and Sophia Young.

The Gold Bug Mine . . .

(Reprinted from The Klamath Republican of October 5, 1905.)

Gold has been discovered within half a mile of the corporate limits of the town of Klamath Falls.

On Sunday Messrs. W. T. Shive and John Schallock posted notices on the lower end of what is known as Moore's Island, situated in Link River just below C. S. & R. S. Moore's saw mill. A notice of the location of a mining claim has also been filed with the County Clerk.

Mr. Shive stated to a Republican representative that they had discovered a 60 foot ledge which showed strong traces of gold. He had some of the gold as proof of his assertion. This ledge crosses the Link River where the falls are the greatest and has been followed for a distance of half of a mile on the east side of the river.

It is possible that this rushing cataract may flow over millions of dollars worth of gold, at least that is what the discoverers think. Mr. Shive claims that the land is part of the river while R. S. Moore says that he owns the land as he has title to all the adjoining property.

Samples of the ore have been sent to Portland to be assayed and the result will be awaited with interest by the people of this locality.

Wears Trousers; Woman Pinched . . .

(Reprinted from the Klamath Republican of August 29, 1912.)

A woman dressed in a man's khaki outing suit which fitted her nethers mighty close from the knees down, was arrested on Monday at Sixth and Main streets by Patrolman William Hall for wearing attire contrary to the statutes in such cases made and provided, and all in the county of Klamath and state of Oregon.

She would not say who she was or where she was from, but claimed to be traveling alone.

"I've been in town only ten minutes," she said. "I came on my horse which is being shod. I went through here about two weeks ago."

She asserted that she was within her rights as a horsewoman to wear the kind of covering she had on, but Officer Hall said she was wrong, and ordered her to go along with him. She wanted to go get her horse, she said, but the patrolman was obdurate, so she went with him.

Main street pedestrians were very much interested in the woman's appearance, which was not one of surpassing beauty.

(Born fifty-five years too soon—Editor)

Republican, May 15, 1913:

Watering troughs, owned, installed and operated by the city, is to be the latest example of municipal ownership of public utilities in Klamath Falls, if the present plans of the members of the city council are carried out. The subject occasioned much comment at Tuesday night's meeting of the board.

The hat was thrown into the ring when the Klamath Falls Creamery company asked permission to put a watering trough on Seventh street, at their building. The creamery is visited by hundreds of farmers every week, and the trough would be a great convenience to those farmers, who complain that they have no place to water their steeds in Klamath Falls.

The matter was turned down at the request of some of the councilmen, who stated that they had been continually asked to grant permits to blacksmith shops and other concerns for troughs. There was no question in the minds of the city fathers, though, that there should be suitable watering troughs in different parts of the city to relieve the thirst of the horses from the outlying farms, and this matter will undoubtedly be taken up at an early meeting of the board.

Republican, June 10, 1909:

At a meeting of the Real Estate Dealers' Association Monday it was decided to take steps toward numbering the houses and buildings of the city. This will be necessary, as the town gets large enough for letter carrier service, and it was the opinion of the real estate dealers that numbering all houses would be beneficial in many ways at the present time. It is very hard for a stranger to locate anyone in the city when there are no street numbers.

A committee, consisting of P. L. Fountain, C. P. Gregory, T. W. Stephens, W. S. Slough and Wilber White, together with Chairman Frank Ira White, was appointed to devise a numbering system and present the matter before the City Council.

The association also decided to place a float in the Railroad Day parade and a committee was appointed to design and build a float.

Republican, February 1, 1912:

A black electric auto bus, which the White Pelican is to use in connection with the traffic between the hostelry and the depot has arrived in the city, and will shortly be installed in service.

Klamath Republican, August 29, 1907:

The high wind that prevailed here last Friday night "did business" with the Upper Lake and backed that body of water so far that it was necessary to shut down the electric light plant. After about an hour enough water came down the flume to operate the wheel.

Klamath Republican, September 5, 1907:

The next thing to attract the attention of the city fathers was the automobile question. It was generally admitted that the germs of "automania" were to be found within the city, and a determined effort must be made to stamp them out before the entire community becomes infected. Therefore an ordinance was passed providing that no automobile should be driven through the streets at a speed exceeding five miles an hour. Violation of the law will bring down upon the head of the offender a fine of not less than $5 nor more than $50 and not less than five nor more than ten days in the city jail.

Hitching Racks are Next . . .

(Reprinted from The Klamath Republican of October 16, 1913.)

After being compelled to take his team to a livery stable in case the only hitching rack in the city was in use, the Klamath county farmer is to be given a little better treatment. At last night's council meeting the street committee was authorized to look up a suitable site for plenty of hitching racks, and take steps toward their construction.

"Hitching posts are badly needed here," said Councilman Townsend, "and the farmers have a right to make a complaint.

"If a farmer goes to tie his team to a telephone post, he is ordered away by the police. He is then forced to put his team in a livery stable, during the short time he is here doing his trading.

"The city should welcome the farmer, instead of treating him that way. If there is no city property available, a site should be rented."

Mathews supported this, and moved the authorization of the street committee to act in the matter.

Letter to the Editor

from Mrs. Ruby (Wilbur) Morton

Dear Editor:

When on vacation recently I bought "Klamath Echoes" No. 3 and No. 4, part 1 of 1967, in the museum in Yreka. I am intensely interested in the part 1 issue because I have clear memories of the years 1910 to 1919 spent in Klamath Falls. The day we arrived there was the last day of the horse drawn street car. I was in the first grade at Central School and still have my report card. We lived in a pink house near the high school and there was a huge boulder in the kitchen wall that the builders hadn't removed. We moved to other houses—then after a year in California we returned and came to the Lakeside Inn. The first few days we ate in the dining room and I remember of two large pancakes nailed side by side on the wall. Then we were established upstairs. Regarding your article on the Lakeside Inn closing Oct. 3, 1911, I'd like to say that about 1913, our family lived in the right hand side upstairs cupolo apartment. John Oliver, wife Laura and baby Gertrude lived in the left hand upstairs cupolo apartment. John Oliver was the son of Caleb Oliver, who I seem to remember as being with the Chamber of Commerce. Downstairs under Olivers, the landlady lived. I think her name was Roane, then she became Mrs. Courtney. The Evan Reames lived across the street. Next door to them, their attractive looking married chauffeur and maid lived. They were Negroes. She wore black dresses and aprons, and caps of white. The Reames had a big launch and would walk down to the dock to ride, wearing cream colored dusters and caps. There was a lawyer who lived in an upstairs apartment across the street who spent his evenings watching our family with his binoculars. His light was always on and maybe we didn't have shades! Our next move was across the alley to a real estate building called Worden's Ark. A Mrs. Bath had a flower shop in the building by the bridge. She made friends with the pelicans and would have them following her down the sidewalk and alley, giving them bits of food. In winter we watched the De Lap family go by in their sleigh to church. Sometimes we heard the musical jangle of bells on freight teams going in or out of town across the bridge. Several days there was a screening stretched under the bridge to catch the body of a man that had attempted to go down the rapids in his boat. The body was found in the lake below the bridge. I remember of Capt. Oliver Applegate speaking to us at school. He had a long white beard and piercing deep set eyes. His daughter was music teacher in the school. I remember the wooden sidewalks and wooden steps, the cool damp smell of the creamery where we sat on twisted wire chairs and ate ice cream, watching parades on the Fourth of July and circus parades. Also a big gas bag balloon ascension. The most remarkable thing I have ever encountered was when the wind blew very strong for several days and almost stopped Link River. I was with my folks picking up fish from the water holes in the rocks. I was glad to see your article on this as I know sometimes when I told about this, that the listener found it hard to believe. When I was in the sixth grade we moved to Shippington, a few miles north of Klamath Falls on the lower edge of Upper Lake. My father was C. O. Wilbur. He had engineer jobs in several of the mills. A greasy job that earned him the nickname of "Snowball" Wilbur. One Christmas in the two room school near Pelican Bay Lumber Co., the two young school teachers accepted donations to get gifts for all the children at the Christmas program. In the upper grades where I was, the boys received animal traps and the girls had wide hair ribbons for their gift. For a while there was no seventh and eighth grades there and we had to walk to Central

school. At the end of the eighth grade, county exams were required to be taken in the county seat, Klamath Falls. An excursion up to Rocky Point on a boat named Winema was a highlight. Sometimes there was a terror that came with mill whistles blowing a steady stream of short blasts—you knew it meant FIRE, usually burning to the ground. My father told of one fire where he just had time to fix the whistle with something to keep it blowing and get out, I think that was the mill just south of the bridge a ways, before we had moved out to Shippington. During World War I, there was I.W.W. trouble. A flour mill out of Klamath Falls burned and the next night a mill. A search light was put up by the mills at the lower end of Upper Lake. Flu epidemics closed schools several months. Our family didn't get it, but wore the flu masks. I remember the long list of deaths in each day's paper. Our doctor was the Dr. Wright in your article. I can still see the large couple of pillows like sunflowers, with a darky face for a center. They were on the office settee. One happy memory was my mother and we children walking in to Klamath Falls to attend as much as we could of Chautauqua programs. One train out in the morning to Weed and back in the evening was the important contact with the outside world in those days.

—Ruby Morton.

(*Editor's Note*: The above letter was unsolicited and arrived after the material for this issue of *Klamath Echoes* had been delivered to the printer. However, the letter is so interesting and appropriate for this issue, we are adding it as a special bonus. Further, this is the type of historical information we are desirous of receiving for publication. We are deeply indebted to Mrs. Morton for her contribution and hope this will be an incentive to others in the future.)

A Main Street photo of about 1913 or 1914, in front of the Lakeside Inn. Brick store and former Klamath County Bank buildings in background. Left to right: (Back row): Mrs. C. O. Wilbur holding baby Gertrude Oliver, Laura Oliver, and Mrs. Courtney. (Front): ..... Wilbur, Ruby Wilbur, ... Wilbur and ..... Courtney. The photo was taken, developed and printed by Mrs. Caleb Oliver, who did mostly work on post cards.

—Courtesy Mrs. Ruby Morton.

Erected by Eulalona Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution
IN MEMORY OF
GEORGE NURSE
June 4, 1820 - November 26, 1895
Founder and Benefactor of Linkville
(Klamath Falls)
Rafted lumber down Upper Klamath Lake and
built first buildings on this site. 1867.
Registered first official plat of town, 1878.
Was Linkville's first hotel keeper, postmaster,
and livery stable operator. Gave building lots
to people who would build. Donated first
school site, Feb. 26, 1878. Donated courthouse
block, and site of the Linkville cemetery.
Mrs. Dick Lane Owens, Regent
Klamath Falls, Oregon
Mrs. Paul Deller, Historian
April, 1966

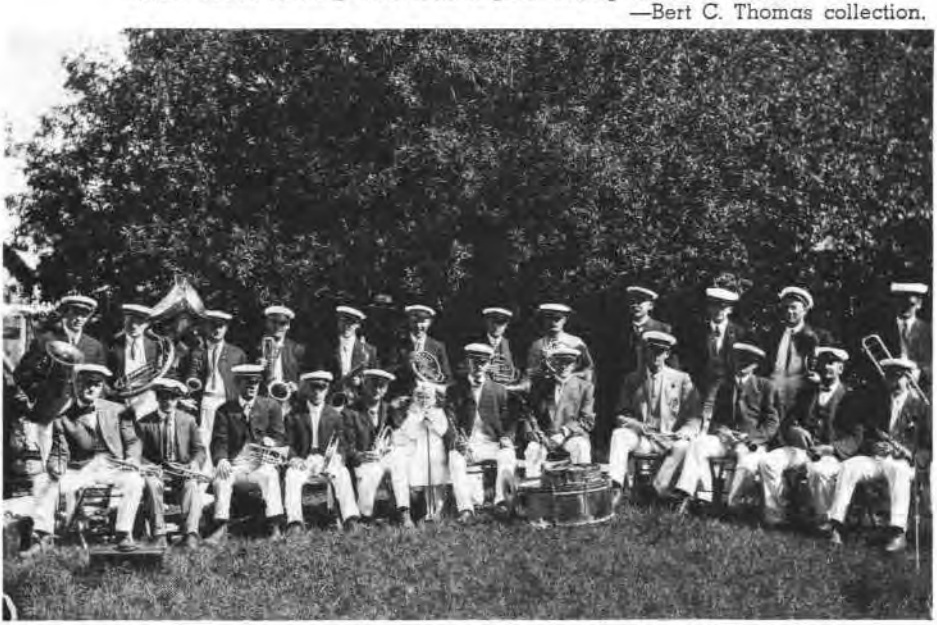
The above marker was dedicated April 3, 1966 by the D.A.R. It is located at the southeast corner of the City Center Motel, at the approximate site of George Nurse's original store, and the later Brick Store building. —Helen Helfrich photo.

Western Transfer Co. conveyance enroute to the Upper Lake from Klamath Falls, for a boat outing. (L. to R.): H. C. Telford; Augusta Parker Dunbar, aunt of Mayor Bob Veach, Lucy Telford, mother of Ray; and driver, unknown.

Main Street, Klamath Falls, Oregon, looking east from Fourth Street, about 1920. First National Bank building and Golden Rule store at left. Witherow-Melhase building and Hall Hotel at right.
—Bert C. Thomas collection.

Main Street, looking east from Fifth, about 1930.
—Bert C. Thomas collection.

Main Street, looking west from Eighth, during the mid thirties.
—Bert C. Thomas collection.



Klamath Falls Military Band at Odessa or Pelican Bay. Back row, left to right: ..... Reur; Ed Bodge, baritone; Chas. Martin, sousaphone; Al Stahlmon, M. D. Williams and Roy Hamaker, saxophones; Merle Houston, Will Bowdoin and John Hamilton, French horns; John Houston, bass drum; unknown; Carey Ramsby, tenorhorn; unknown, trombone. Front row: A. J. Hobby, ... Goodrich, Slick Wilson, Kay North, E. B. Henry, cornets; Ivon Daniels, director (little girl is his daughter); Fred Houston, unknown, Marion Barnes, unknown, Harry Goeller, cornets. —Courtesy Klamath County Museum.

Preparing the balloon for Professor Godfrey's ascension from near the northwest corner of Third and Main, about 1909 or 1910. —Courtesy Klamath County Museum.

Klamath Falls street cleaner, Charley Adams, driver, at Sixth and Oak Streets, about 1913. —Courtesy Klamath County Museum.

Spectators in the Lakeside Inn hack watching the moving of the Steamer Klamath from Lake Ewauna to the Upper Lake, Spring 1910. —Bert C. Thomas collection.

Two old buildings, "Worden's Ark" and "Blywas," that once occupied the space between the Lakeside Inn, left, and Link River. "Blywas" was the Indian name for Capt. O. C. Applegate, and meant "Eagle." It had formerly been Major Worden's boat house for his boat "Blywas," before being moved to this location. One of these old buildings is presently located behind the home of Mrs. Minnie Grizzle at 927 Jefferson Street.
—Maude Baldwin collection

Paving operations on Main Street, looking east from Sixth. Operations began May 19, 1911 and were completed just prior to November 15, 1911. —F. M. Priest photo.

On Conger, near Main, in the winter of 1915. Please note the size of the tires.
—A Ray Telford photo.

Rose and Earnest Soule at their home on Sixth, between Main and Pine, built about 1870. Picture taken in 1905. —Maude Baldwin collection.

Welton Rooms at the southeast corner of Ninth and Main. Present location of Pacific Northwest Bell Telephone Co. —Bert C. Thomas collection.

Mrs. Bath feeding her birds from the deck of the Ewauna, at the Klamath Navigation Company's docks. —Bert C. Thomas collection.

P. L. Fountain Real Estate office between Third and Main, at approximately the site of the present Chamber of Commerce office. —Courtesy Klamath County Museum.

Shive Bros. & Co.'s Electric Cash Store, about 426 Main, sometime between 1900 and 1906.
—Courtesy Klamath County Museum.

Rainbow Theatre, remodeled and with a new neon sign, about the mid-forties.
—A James Floyd photo.

Pelican Theatre in 1939 on its Tenth Anniversary. Shopper's Guide occupying a room in the Pelican building at left. Price's Candyland in the new U. S. National Bank building at right.

Main Street of "Bunch Town" during the winter of 1906-07. Mammoth Livery Stable at right, and next to left, B. St. George's Furniture Store. —Maude Baldwin collection.

Ferris wheel in front of the Livermore Hotel, also at times known as the Houston Hotel, at the northwest corner of Second and Main. —F. M. Priest photo.

Klamath County's first court house as it looks today. First occupied July 2, 1888, it is now an apartment house at the corner of Fourth and Walnut.
—Helen Helfrich photo.

Buena Stone, Klamath Historian, found where the money to build this courthouse came from. The "Alta California" reported December 8, 1872, that Fritz Muntz, a German bachelor, was looking for the body of his friend, John Schroeder, who was murdered by the Modoc Indians. Muntz settled near Bly, on what is now the "BK" (Bloomingcamp) Ranch, in 1875 with a large herd of cattle. He built one of our earliest irrigation systems, still called the Muntz Ditch.

Clinton Brown, a Klamath Indian, felt Muntz was crowding him out and kept bothering Muntz. On May 24, 1878, Muntz, exasperated beyond further endurance, grabbed his 44 and fired, as he thought, over the head of Brown who was running from him. Unfortunately the ball went through Brown's jugular vein at 520 paces. Realizing that he had killed a ward of the Government, Muntz, on May 31, 1878, as reported in the Fort Klamath Post Returns, gave himself up and posted bond of $9000.00. Worried over the outcome, Muntz forfeited the bond and left the country. This $9000.00 was used in the construction of this courthouse.

This courthouse was, and still is, a good stout building of Klamath County Lumber, the same good stout lumber that SWAN LAKE has furnished its customers for the past 44 years from the old stand on South Sixth Street.

White Pelican Hotel in the process of burning, before the west wall had collapsed.

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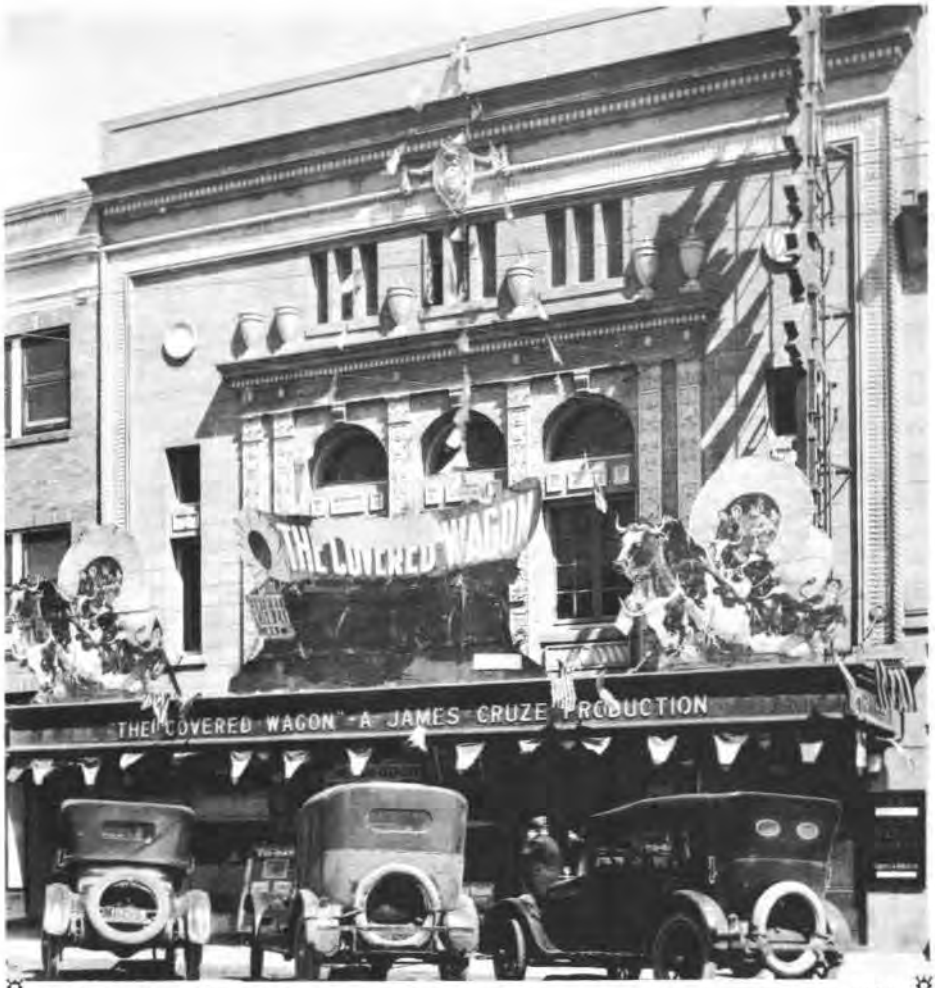
KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON



The Pine Tree, George M. Mann's first theatre purchase in Klamath Falls in 1924, at 706 Main Street.

—Ted Snyder's Scrapbook, Courtesy Klamath County Museum.

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MOTION PICTURE ENTERTAINMENT

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KLAMATH THEATRES, INC.

Esquire, Tower, and Shasta Drive-In
Klamath Falls, Oregon

Preparing Main Street for the street car track in front of the A.O.U.W. building and Baldwin Hotel. Probably during the late spring of 1906.
—Courtesy Klamath County Museum.

BALDWIN HOTEL

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